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CUSTODIAN'S WORK NEARLY COMPLETED

Statement on Sale Of Furniture

Work at the department of the Custodian of Property has been greatly speeded up in the past few months, and it is expected that the department will have completed the main functions for which it was set up by the summer.

However, it may not be wound up until the end of the year, as the collection of money due to the department, as well as finalisation of the complicated accounts, might require some time.

One of the department's biggest tasks, that of disposing of goods in the godowns, has been virtually completed. The goods have either been handed back to the rightful owners where they could be traced or sold by public auction.

A number of sub-departments have already been closed, and the Custodian's staff has been considerably reduced. It is understood that there are only three permanent government officers in the department, the rest of the staff are employed on a temporary basis to month basis.

Some dissatisfaction has lately been aroused among residents who have hired furniture from the department by receipt of notice that if they wished to retain and purchase any item of furniture the charge would be based on the 1941 level of prices plus 50 percent.

NOT BINDING

An official of the Custodian's department explained this morning that as the department seeks to liquidate its affairs as early as possible, it was recently decided to offer the furniture for sale to hirers generally. The valuation set forth in the hire agreements, based on 1941 prices, does not bind the Custodian to accept it as the proper price to be paid in the case of outright purchase, said the official. He said that it is made clear in the printed terms that if hirers wished to purchase the furniture, it was subject to the agreement of the Custodian. The valuation was set mainly as a guide for the purpose of determining the amounts to be charged as hiring fees.

He disclosed that 75 percent of the people who hired furniture from the department have accepted the offer now made.

The charge now being made has been arrived at after long consultations with and as a result of the decision of the highest government quarters.

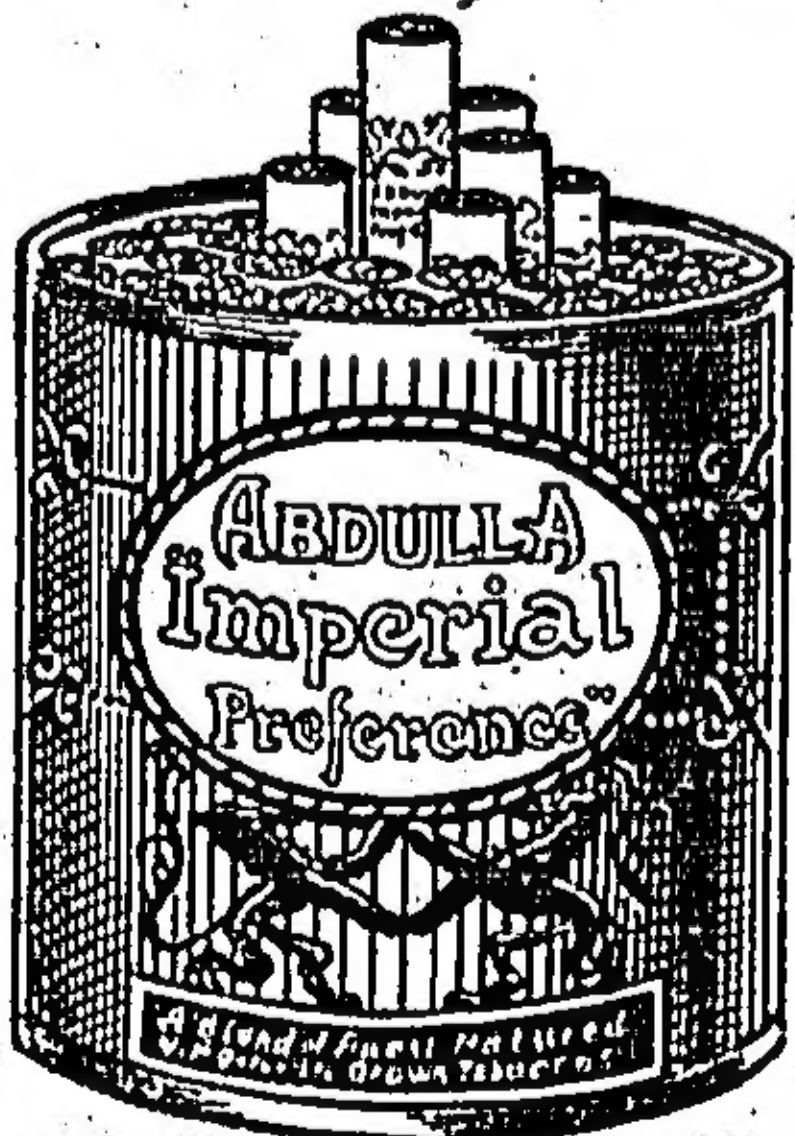
It represents generally the present market value, which, having regard to the condition of the furniture, is estimated to be 50 percent above the 1941 figure.

Questioned regarding disposal of the money collected by the department, the official said that it is paid into the Treasury into a special trust account. He was unable to say how the money would eventually be applied, whether all or what part of it would be credited to enemy reparations, because the policy of the government has not been made known.

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NO ELECTRICITY FOR INDUSTRY

Gruner Appeal Latest

London, Feb. 7.

The attorney for the convicted Jewish extremist, Dov Gruner, said in London today that he was ready to file with the British Privy Council an appeal against Gruner's death sentence and said he had cabled Palestine to postpone the execution until the appeal could be heard.

Gruner himself declined to seek an appeal, but his relatives have urged his lawyer to go ahead with one.—United Press.

Jewish Immigration Scheme

Compromise Formula For Palestine

London, Feb. 8.

Informed sources said the British Cabinet was considering a compromise Palestine formula which would allow 100,000 Jews from European displaced persons camps to enter immediately a semi-autonomous Jewish province in the Holy Land.

The plan was attributed to the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Bevin and the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Creech-Jones. President Truman told Jewish leaders in Washington in July that the United States was willing to assume technical and financial responsibility for transportation of 100,000 immigrants from Europe to Palestine.

Government sources said it was almost certain that the new British proposals would be conveyed to Arab and Jewish leaders in London over the week-end.—Associated Press.

EVACUATION COMPLETE

Jerusalem, Feb. 8.

Evacuation of British women and children and non-essential male residents from Palestine has been completed, an official announcement said.

A total of 1,396 members of civilian and military families and a small number of non-essential males was evacuated by the Army in operation which began on Tuesday. These figures do not include families sent to Britain by plane. A small number now in hospitals will (Continued on Page 10)

Second Drastic Move To Save Coal

London, Feb. 7.

The Fuel Minister, Mr. Emmanuel Shinwell, announced in the House of Commons today that the Government had decided that no electricity would be supplied to any industrial consumer in the London, Southeastern, Midland and Northwestern areas, beginning Monday.

Mr. Shinwell also announced that domestic consumers in those areas would be without electricity from nine a.m. to noon and from two p.m. to four p.m.

The Minister's announcement coincided with the arrival in London of 35 coal ships with cargoes for home consumption—the first big shipment here in more than a week.

However, unless the coldest weather England has experienced in 50 years breaks soon, the coal will be no more than a drop in the bucket. Hundreds of plants have closed for lack of fuel, throwing upwards of a quarter of a million men out of work.

More than 700 ships in British ports were unable to sail because of last night's drastic order banning the export of any coal overseas. The order included refuelling of foreign ships in British ports and threatened to cut Britain's vital foreign trade in half if the order remained in effect for long.

It was not immediately clear exactly to which industries Shinwell's announcement would apply. The Minister merely said that "industrial consumers" would be affected.

Mr. Shinwell said that as soon as coal stocks to power stations permitted, restrictions would be modified or removed. He declined to say when this might be but presumably it would not come until the weather broke, allowing trains to function more normally.

The Minister said electricity stations in the affected areas were at present unable to say whether they could carry on for the next ten days and in view of this it was necessary to curtail operations drastically.

It was essential, he said, to maintain vital services such as hospitals, sewage and bus services. This could only be done by curtailing industry, he added.—United Press.

SHIPPING TIED UP

London, Feb. 8.

Hundreds of ocean-going ships were tied up in British ports yesterday by a Government coal conservation order curbing dangerously low fuel supplies for domestic consumption only.

Both British and foreign vessels were affected by the ban imposed on Thursday night. It was the latest of a series of emergency measures dictated by the heavy drain on coal stocks during almost a month of unusually bitter winter weather. All coal exports and ship bunkering were halted by the order.

The London Star estimated that as many as 700 ships were affected, but the Ministry of Transport said that an accurate figure had not yet been compiled.

An immediate result of the ban was the curtailment of Britain's export drive—a desperate attempt to re-build war depleted foreign credits. A Board of Trade spokesman declared that it was too early to say just how seriously overseas shipments would be affected.

With more than 100,000 factory workers forced into idleness or part-time employment the fuel shortage has already had far-reaching effects on the country's economy.

Twelve thousand workers at the Ford Works at Dagenham were among those idle on Friday because of the coal famine. Thirty-six spinning mills in northern England, employing more than 40,000 persons announced that they would be forced to close or go on short-time unless more fuel was delivered immediately.

Meanwhile, low temperatures continued throughout Britain and a

large part of the continent, and there was more snow.

The London Air Ministry predicted that the winter with heavy snow for another 24 hours. However, the thermometer was rising in the Selby Islands bringing the promise of warmer weather in the United Kingdom.—United Press.

SHIPS CAN BUNKER

London, Feb. 7.

The statement to-night by the Ministry of Fuel and Power that though the export of coal from Britain remains prohibited ships will be allowed to load their bunkers, is the latest step in a succession of reports and denials.

In the House of Commons today Lord Winterbottom (Cons.) asked whether the statement in all newspapers, including the Daily Herald, the official Labour organ, that ships had been prevented from taking in bunkers was untrue.

Mr. Emmanuel Shinwell answered: "There is no truth in the statement that ships are being prevented from getting their bunkers filled."

Mr. Shinwell did not answer when Major Lloyd George repeatedly asked whether instructions were given yesterday to stop the bunkers but eventually remarked: "I gather that the Member is not concerned whether it is true that the bunkers have not been stopped but whether instructions were issued."

Major Lloyd George then said it was obvious from the Minister's attitude that instructions from his department that foreign bunkers should be stopped had been reversed this morning.

He took it that another Ministry saw what was happening from the papers and there was a meeting.—Reuters.

D'ARGENLIEU RECALLED

Paris, Feb. 7.

Premier Paul Ramadier today announced that he had instructed Admiral Thierry d'Argenlieu, French High Commissioner in Indo-China, to return to Paris from Saigon "for conference."

Admiral d'Argenlieu's recall coincided with increasing rumours of possible French peace moves in Indo-China and some observers said the possibility of a ministerial crisis if he is removed from his post.

The removal of d'Argenlieu has been one of the principal demands of the Viet Nam government and there have been persistent reports that he would be replaced by a civilian as an initial French peace gesture.

The newspaper "Combat," noting the steadfast opposition by M. Georges Bidault's Popular Republican Movement to the removal of Admiral d'Argenlieu, speculated that such a move by M. Ramadier might create a French Cabinet crisis.

About 10,000 French troops disembarked at Saigon today from the liner Ile de France.—United Press.

Marshall's First Press Conference

Deals With Variety Of Subjects

Washington, Feb. 7.

General George C. Marshall, Secretary of State, in a world-wide survey of United States foreign policy at his first press conference as United States Secretary, said today that the conclusion of an international agreement on disarmament should await completion of the European and Far Eastern peace settlements.

He insisted that agreement on the international control of atomic energy is "of first importance," and declared that the United States would not reduce its military strength in any way until a real system of collective security had been established.

He considered universal military training necessary to back up the United States foreign policy.

Other points in General Marshall's survey were: the Pacific; the United States will submit its plan for the trusteeship of former Japanese mandated islands in the Pacific to the United Nations Security Council on or about February 17. Britain, Russia and Australia had asked for clarification and suggested postponement until after the Japanese peace treaty. The United States thought postponement unnecessary but would leave it to the Council.

United States Marines were being withdrawn from China because their tasks of helping to repatriate Japanese and guard the communications of the American mediation mission were not over. A small detachment of Marines would remain at Tientsin, in Northern China—the base for the United States Seventh Fleet operating in the China Seas and where Chinese soldiers are being trained for Coastguard duties.

Dealing with Russia, General Marshall said the Soviet Government had informed the State Department that more than 15 or 20 correspondents could be accommodated in Moscow to attend next month's meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

The United States immediately asked Moscow if the number could be increased and asked for broadcasting facilities for radio correspondents.

"VERY CONCERNED"

General Marshall said the United States Government was deeply concerned over the situation in Palestine and is being kept fully and closely informed of "the very critical and delicate discussions now going on in London."

He revealed that the U.S. Ambassador in Warsaw, Mr. Arthur Bliss Lane, is to be recalled soon for consultations and a first-hand report on the recent Polish elections. Recalling the State Department's statement of January 26, which refused recognition of the results of the Polish election, General Marshall said: "As explained at that time this Government intended to continue to follow closely the (Continued on Page 10)

EDITORIAL

Furniture For Sale

NOTHING could be more unfair than government's decision to impose a surcharge of 50 per cent on the original 1941 valuation for the purchase of furniture hired from the Custodian of Property. Apparently the authorities seek to justify it on two grounds. 1, that some of the furniture was made after 1941 (during the Japanese occupation) and is therefore worth more than pre-war stuff; 2, you can't buy the same furniture today for less than three times the Custodian's valuation. The first point is specious; the second unprincipled.

Government appears to have lost sight of an important consideration. Many of the people who, to-day, have furnished what homes they possess with odd bedroom, dining room and drawing room suites, carpets and tables from the Custodian of Property's stores, lost their original belongings as a result of the fall of Hongkong. Some of these possessions were looted, others taken over by the Japanese, and were, after the reoccupation, taken over by the Custodian. To argue that it now would cost three times as much to be bigger the point. Bluntly, for government to strike a valuation on prevailing inflated prices for furniture made either before the war, or during the occupation, is grasping, unreasonable, and has nothing to commend it. An immediate revision of policy regarding the sale of Custodian of Property furniture and household effects is called for.

Princesses Won't Be Ducked

London, Feb. 8.

Because of their royal birth, Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret Rose will probably be spared the traditional ducking in cold water when the battleship Vanguard, carrying them and their parents to South Africa cross the Equator next Monday.

An Exchange Telegraph message from the vessel now well past the 2,000 miles mark on its long voyage, said that the Princesses would take part in the ceremony with others aboard who have never crossed the Equator before, but would not go through the ducking bath.—Associated Press.

On Warpath

La Paz, Bolivia, Feb. 7.

The Minister of the Interior today confirmed reports that rebellious Indians carrying firearms, sticks and dynamite attacked ranches in the Cochabamba area killing and wounding an undetermined number of farmers—and seizing four—as hostages. The Indians were led by miners, who supplied the dynamite.

The government claimed that the uprising was connected with a plot by the totalitarian national revolutionary movement to regain power which was lost when it was overthrown by the revolution last July.—United Press.

UNRRA Programme Jeopardised

Washington, Feb. 8.

Withdrawal of the United States marines from North China may be a threat to the UNRRA programme in China, said UNRRA director general Rooks, today.

Rooks told a press conference the marines who are leaving Peiping and Tientsin recently began distributing UNRRA foodstuffs and medicines by aircraft.

This project was terminated when the order was issued recalling the marines.

Rooks said the agency's objective programme in China remains unchanged.

But he said if the civil war increases it is increasingly likely to disrupt the UNRRA programme.

It is impossible for the agency to operate efficiently in areas of hostilities, he said.

The agency hopes all China headquarters in Shanghai may continue undisturbed until the completion of the programme late this year.

But it is determined to complete the programme in the best fashion regardless of internal China conditions.

UNRRA has considered establishing two administrations in China as an emergency measure—one handling the national areas and the other the communist area.—Associated Press.

SPECIAL BARGAINS!



ROYAL SOVEREIGN

ALL LEATHER GENTLEMEN'S SHOES

Guaranteed Made in Northamptonshire (ENGLAND)
Price \$39.00 per Pair (\$3.00 Below Govt. Control Price)

ALSO

AMERICAN HATS (Latest Styles) \$19.00 each.

WOOLLEN TWEED (100% Pure Wool) Herring-Bone
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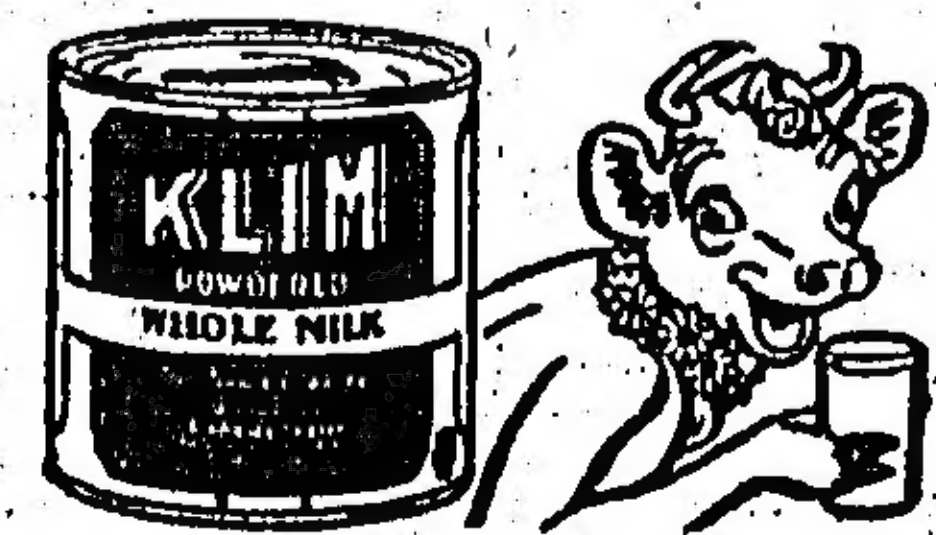
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Growing Children Need KLIM!



say ELSE, the BORDEN COW

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THE WORLD OVER

SHOWING
TO-DAY★ **KINGS** ★At 2.30, 5.10,
7.15 & 9.15 p.m.Two great romantic
stars in an unfor-
gettable love story!

M-G-M presents the thrilling picture made from James M. Cain's best-seller
JOHN GARFIELD
LANA TURNER
The Postman Always Rings Twice
CECIL KELLAWAY • HUME CRONIN • LEON AMES
AUDREY TOTTER • ALAN REED
Directed by TAY GARNETT • Produced by CAREY WILSON

ADDED! LATEST CAUMONT BRITISH NEWS

TO-MORROW AT 11.30 A.M. ONLY
STEWART GRANGER in

"CARAVAN"

EAGLE-LION DISTRIBUTION — AT REDUCED PRICES.

SHOWING

★ **QUEEN'S** ★At 2.30, 5.15,
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IT'S YOUR 'DREAM VACATION' COME TRUE!

CARMEN MIRANDA
CESAR ROMERO

Week-End in Havana
TECHNICOLOR
with
Cubana Wright, Jr. • George Barbier
Sheldon Leonard • Leonard Klatky
Chris-Pin Martin • Billy Gilbert
A 20th Century-Fox Picture

ALICE FAYE
JOHN PAYNE

ADDED! LATEST MARCH OF TIME!

"PROBLEM DRINKERS"

ORIENTAL
FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY: 2.30—5.15—7.15—9.15 P.M.
2 SOLID HOURS OF CONTINUOUS LAUGHTER! 2

BUD ABBOTT and LOU COSTELLO

"Keep 'em Flying"

MARTHA CAROL
RAYE BRUCE
WILLIAM DICK
GARGAN FORAN



COMMENCING TO-MORROW: "JUNGLE CAVALCADE"

SPECIAL MORNING SHOW TO-MORROW AT 12.30 P.M.
LAUREL & HARDY in "DANCING MASTERS"

TO-DAY

★ **MAJESTIC** ★At 2.30, 5.20,
7.20 & 9.20 p.m.

It's so funny, it's a scandal!

JACK H. SKIRBALL presents
CLAUDETTE COLBERT • DON AMECHE
with RICHARD FORAN

Sam Woods

GUEST WIFE

TO-MORROW: "I DOOD IT"

Starring Red SKELTON • Eleanor POWELL

FILMS & PLAYERSYou could mistake
the stars for
nursemaidsHOLLYWOOD is a difficult
place to evaluate by any
ordinary standards.

Although you could walk down the street in a raffia skirt and no one would give you a second glance, most people don't. In fact there's hardly a day when you could not meet a pin-up girl, a glamour star—like, say, Betty Grable or Hedy Lamarr—or Lana Turner or Veronica Lake or Rosalind Russell—taking a day off from work to push her baby along the smooth macadam sidewalks of Beverly Hills.

MINK—AND SLACKS

The lesser lights of Hollywood dress for the calendar, the daytime thermometer being notoriously stuck at a point somewhere above 70. These wear their mink coats from October to February, very often over slacks, just to keep them in practice.

The star mothers, though, wear simple little outfits and you could just as easily take them for nursemaids, and some people do.

As they stroll along the well-kept paths, dappled with sunshine filtering through palm leaves, acacia or eucalyptus trees, edged with neat and ever-dropping bushes of hibiscus, oleander, lantana, looking exactly the part of a young suburban matron, it's difficult to tell which is the real girl, the young mother or the glamour star.

As far as studios are concerned, they're satisfied with both roles, one for the screen, one for publicity. Because the fashion in publicity these days turns fan magazines, once brimful of gay parties, into dull but homey little booklets which might well be renamed Family Life or Mother's Own.

SUCH IS FAME

This may be why a story which would have been widely reported a few years ago, escaped publicity, although the man who created the story got plenty. This man established himself on a traffic island in the middle of a Hollywood street, lived there three weeks. His name was Dusty Rhodes, curiously appropriate in the circumstances.

It all came about through a radio programme. Radio, as national entertainment, is inextricably mixed up with the movie industry because the talent is interchangeable. The biggest names in radio—Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Jack Benny, Fred Allen, Bergen and McCarthy—are all movie stars; and for that reason most of the big programmes come out of Hollywood.

CONSEQUENCE WAS

One of these is called Truth or Consequences, a question-and-answer programme. The person who doesn't know the answer pays the consequences.

In this case the consequence was three weeks on a desert island with all found. The island selected was a traffic island at the very busy intersection of Sunset Boulevard and La Brea, and "all" included a tent, a stove, food, and a gramophone with one record ("I wish I was in Dixie.") There was also a boat on

THE BELLS OF ST. MARY'S

Three winners of Academy awards for 1945 are associated in "The Bells of St. Mary's," showing at the ALHAMBRA. Producer-Director Leo McCarey and Bing Crosby, who won their awards for "Going My Way," are joined by Ingrid Bergman, who was similarly rewarded for her starring role in "Gaslight."

In "The Bells of St. Mary's" Crosby portrays the same character, that of Father O'Malley, that he played with great success in "Going My Way." As the newly appointed pastor of St. Mary's parochial school, his ideas of educating the young do not always coincide with those of the nuns under Sister Benedict, the Sister Superior, played by Miss Bergman, but a saving sense of humour on both sides unites them in their spiritual labours on behalf of humanity. These conflicts are handled with a delightfully delicate touch, and are responsible for some of the picture's most enjoyable and diverting sequences.

When the school's very existence is threatened by a wealthy land-grabber, Father O'Malley and his nuns join in on him, and, in their individual ways, accomplish the most surprising and gratifying results.

Crosby sings four well-loved numbers, "Adele's Fables," "The Bells of St. Mary's," "In the Land of Beginning Again," and "Sanctissima," and a new number, "Aren't You Glad You're You?" Miss Bergman sings for the first time in her screen career, a short Swedish folksong, while the boys' choir is heard in devotional chorals.

HOLLYWOOD LETTER by**MOLLY CASTLE**

wheels in which the Islander was able to propel himself across to the mainland where an adjacent petrol station permitted him to powder his nose.

Further, he was to be paid at 14s. 10d. an hour for his time, night and day.

This week the time arrived when the consequence had been met, and Dusty returned to the programme and demanded his back pay, which now amounted to £375 18s. 8d.

Thinking they were being very witty, they paid him off in pennies, three bags full. They offered him a taxi to take it home. But Dusty has a sense of humour, too. When asked for his address:

"Brooklyn," he said, settling himself comfortably for the 3,000-mile drive. He added, superfluously: "Brooklyn, New York."

AT THE TOP

Ginger Rogers likes a raffish atmosphere. When she first became a big star she built herself a big house right on the top of a big mountain.

From this house on the top of Beverly Crest she has the sort of view that makes you look nervously over your shoulder in case anyone with a tail is making suggestions.

Up there in the clear air Ginger can make decisions that enable her to stay on top. When her decisions are such as will bring disapproval on her red-gold head, she lets her mother take the rap. Thus it was that the Press announced this week that Mrs. Lella Rogers had turned down The Gibson Girl for her daughter Ginger after the studio (RKO) had spent a fortune on the script.

AROUND BRITISH STUDIOS

By A Special Film Correspondent

CINEMA-GOERS throughout Britain can vote in the National Film Award which will decide the best British feature film and the most outstanding actor and actress in any British film generally—released since September 1945.

Half a million votes were recorded in 1946, when Silver Star statuette were awarded to James Mason and Margaret Lockwood and for the film "The Way to the Stars."

Three similar trophies are being offered in 1947. Polling is from February 1 to February 28.

PATRICIA ROC, who recently finished a leading part in "Jassy" at Shepherd's Bush Studios, has had a new experience. She

Cinema Guide

SHOWING TO-DAY
KING'S—The Postman Always Rings Twice.
QUEEN'S—Week-end in Havana.
ALHAMBRA—Bells of St. Mary's.

NEXT CHANGE
KING'S—The Harvey Girls.
QUEEN'S—International Lady.
ALHAMBRA—Texas.

consented to play the part of herself in the Gainsborough production "Holiday Camp" as the visiting film star on a personal appearance at a bathing beauty parade.

Fifty lovely girls specially chosen to represent the typical British working girl on holiday, took part in the parade, and after much deep consideration Patricia Roc smilingly awarded the prize to film star Hazel Court, who plays a leading part in "Holiday Camp."

An Australian who has succeeded in establishing himself in England is John McCallum, who has completed two films so far. "The Root of All Evil," with Phyllis Calvert, and "The Loves of Joanna Godden," with Google Withers and Jean Kent.

Now he is to be teamed for a second time with Google Withers. Michael Dalton has cast him for the role of the escaped convict in "It Always Rains on Sunday."

ARTHUR RANK may buy Carnegie Hall, New York's temple of music and culture, and turn it into a movie house.



Hollywood's star-mothers look like suburban matrons when they're looking after baby: Betty Grable and daughter.

Ginger, though, devoted to her mother, makes up her own mind. Her mother, however, is a perfectly willing ally.

There's a story out of her childhood which illustrates Ginger's desire for approval and determination to get it. She was living with her mother at Fort Worth one day when she read a story about the life and loves of an infant prodigy. Though she was a little out of the infant class by then, she was still in socks and hairbows. In her imagination she saw that other baby take a bow, so she started to play the piano.

In three months Ginger learned seven little numbers. Then she got a recital.

She looked very young and fragile and dewy-eyed as she glanced shyly at the audience between each number, though she pounded out her repertoire with force and determination. Both the fragile force and the shy glances would have drawn cheers and tears from a much less sympathetic audience than one composed of Mrs. Rogers's friends and neighbours.

There was no doubt about her success. She took her curtain calls complacently, curtsying. But Ginger was born knowing when to stop. Another time she might play seven more pieces and get more cheers. So what? she must have asked herself. So she's never played the piano since.

STEWART GRANGER, after finishing work on "Captain Boycott," left yesterday by air for Alsace, where he plans to shoot wild pigs. Grinning broadly, he informed me that though he has no previous experience of this kind of "hamming," he understands you simply climb a tree and go bang-bang.

It may not seem strange that seventeen-year-old Jean Simmons dashes back to her London suburban home every night, slips into an old pair of slacks and a jumper, and helps to tidy up the house and look after her mother, who is sick.

Thousands of girls do it. It only seems a little strange to me because Jean—who was a hit in "Cesar and Cleopatra" and a riot in "Great Expectations"—is, in my opinion, going to be Britain's greatest woman film star. And most film stars don't do it.

Jean, unaffected, dark and lively, with long hair that she tosses vocally and eyes that dance and sparkle, is an Alice in Wonderland type.

Ten films at the age of seventeen is Jean's record. She made her name the hard way.

THE first Margaret Lockwood knew about being chosen the most popular British film actress was when her mother read it in the papers.

I congratulated Margaret over lunch, and afterwards saw her rehearse a scene for her first Technicolour film "Jassy." She likes Technicolour for one reason—she uses street make-up; therefore can get home more quickly.

Miss Lockwood's working day would not suit me. She rises at six, is at the studio from seven, gets home at eight.

DEX Harrison and Lilli Palmer will return to England in June from Hollywood.

A FEW weeks ago, lovely Carla Lehmann was driving her car from her London flat to Denham Studios, to work on the film "Fame Is The Spur" starring Michael Redgrave and Rosamund John. As she drove through the thick fog and on ice-covered roads she skidded and crashed into a lamp-post, smashing the car but miraculously escaping injury.

Ten days later at the same time and place, and in similar weather, Carla was being given to Denham. This time her hired car skidded and crashed into a lorry. Again the vehicle was wrecked but the star unhurt.

Carla plans to make a detour in future, as she is not convinced that the third time is always lucky.

ALHAMBRA

NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON

SPECIAL TIMES: 2.30, 5.00, 7.15 & 9.30 P.M.

Your heart will
be wearing a smile!BING sings 8 songs ALL SENSATIONAL
INGRID sings 10 songs ALL SENSATIONAL
BING Crosby • INGRID Bergman

in LEO MCCAREY'S

The Bells of St. Mary's

HENRY TRAVERS • WILLIAM GARGAN

Produced and Directed by Leo McCarey
Screen Play by Dudley Nichols • Story by Leo McCarey

directed in all its human warmth by Leo McCarey who gave you "Going My Way"

TO-MORROW

AT

11 A.M.

BOMBAY STUDIOS PRESENTS

"MAZDOOR"

with INDUMATI • VEERA • NASIR KHAN

An Indian Picture.

CENTRAL THEATRE

— 5 SHOWS DAILY —

At 12.30, 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.

THE FINAL EPISODETOM TYLER
FRANK COGHAN

A 20th Century-Fox Picture

TECHNICOLOR

A 20th Century-Fox Picture

A 20th Century-Fox Picture

A 20th Century-Fox Picture

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It's Fun Finding Out

**Bernard
Wicksteed's
Saturday
Feature**

THERE'S a painting in Burlington House, in the exhibition of the King's pictures, that's said to be worth £200,000. As it costs only 1s. 6d. to have a look at it and you don't have to queue I thought we might go along and try to find out what makes it so valuable.

After all, £200,000 is a lot of money. You could buy an obsolete American destroyer for less than that or a half-dozen Churchill tanks.

The picture we are going to look at is described in the catalogue as "A lady at the virginals, and a gentleman, listening" and it was painted by a Dutchman in Delft about 300 years ago.

His name was Johannes Vermeer and very little is known about him except that he married at twenty, had eight children and sometimes gave the baker a picture instead of cash. Transactions like that were not considered criminal in those days.

You've probably seen reproductions of the picture because you can buy almost anywhere, but they're most of them a very poor substitute for the real thing.

Art experts all over the world have praised the painting and written about it in their books, but only once in a long while do people like you and me get a chance to see it for ourselves.

All through the war it was hidden in an air-conditioned cave in Wales, and when this present exhibition is over it will go back to the King's private gallery in Buckingham Palace, and that is not generally open to the public.

It's a very fine picture. You can see that right away. But what makes it so exceptional? What makes it worth more than the other very fine pictures around it?

To find out the answer I went to Sir Alfred Munnings, who paints horses and is the president of the Royal Academy. Sir Alfred was talking to one of the hanging committee, Mr. Benedict Nicolson (the son of Harold Nicolson and Victoria Sackville-West).

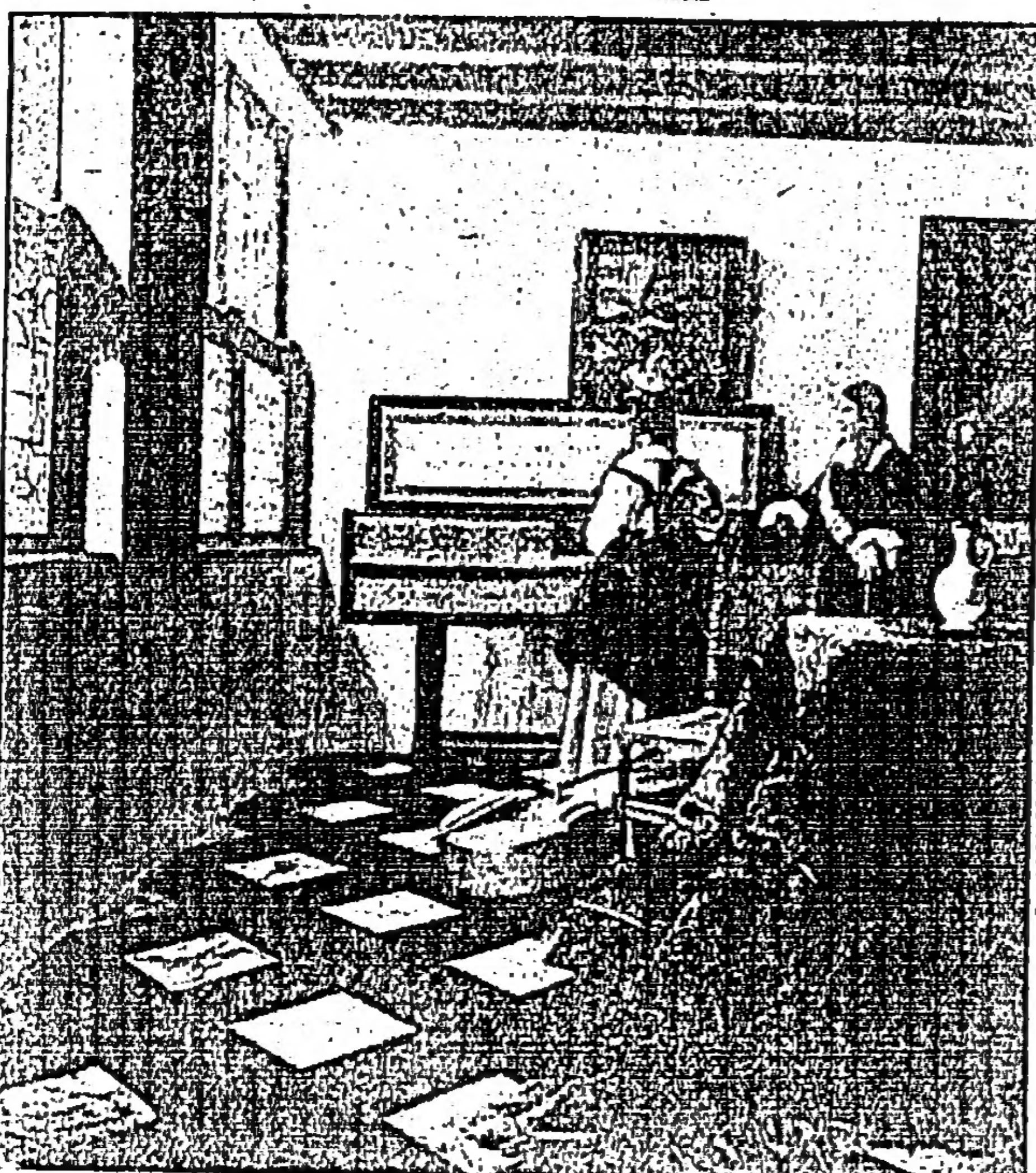
They came back with me to Gallery IX, and tried to explain picture No. 305.

Why value this picture at £200,000?

"In the first place," said Sir Alfred, "you must understand that Vermeer was a superb craftsman. You just don't have men like that to-day. Why, Vermeer would put an unfinished picture aside for months just to let the paint get hard before going on with the rest."

"Just look at the face of that man on the right. It's a perfect little miniature. And the painting on the side of the 'cello, and the pattern on the virginals that the girl is playing..."

"Look at the brass studs on the chair. Every one has a highlight where it catches the sun from the window. You won't find artists doing work like that nowadays."



All this was very interesting and helped me to appreciate the beauty of painting, but it still didn't explain the figure of £200,000.

A few feet away to the right, for instance, is a picture by Jan Steen of a lady putting on her stockings. Some of the details in that—the folds in the curtain and the creases on the pillow—are equally carefully done. Yet Mr. Nicolson reckoned its value at a mere £200,000.

Queen Victoria is alleged to have thought it naughty and banished it to an upstairs room, but even that doesn't fully explain why it's not worth as much as the Vermeer.

"You must understand," said Mr. Nicolson, "that there are more Jan Steens about. Vermeers are rare. There are only 37 fully authenticated paintings and a few other possibilities known. So they have a scarcity value."

"Two hundred thousand for the King's Vermeer is a conservative estimate. That's the price it might fetch in England. But if the Americans started bidding there's no knowing what it would reach."

We went back to No. 305, and the two experts told me other things about the painting and the artist.

If you look in the mirror above the girl's head you will see part of the artist's easel reflected.

THE girl was probably his wife and the room was one in his own house. The same room appears in other Vermeer pictures.

Putting the carpet on the table instead of the floor was an old Dutch custom. They had such nice floors anyway that it was a pity to hide them.

Vermeer's 37 pictures are now worth several million pounds, but when he died at the age of 43 he left his wife with 20 paintings and no money.

However, there's no evidence that the family was ever really poor. In fact, if the atmosphere that the artist got into his work is anything to go by it was one of the happiest families in history. The sun shone through the windows even on dull days in that house.

Vermeer's works have been called the most restful paintings in the world and perhaps that as much as their scarcity, is the real secret of their value.

For nearly 200 years after he died the man remained almost unknown and his paintings were credited to various other Dutch masters.

The King inherited the Vermeer from George III, who bought it from a man with the good old name of Smith.

Smith was a rich Englishman, and art collecting was one of his hobbies. He got together a great many well-known paintings and also a number of others.

George III gave him £20,000 for the lot, and the Vermeer credited to another Dutch artist, Van Meers, was one of the odds and ends.

AS we left the Dutch room Sir Alfred Munnings looked round and repeated regretfully that no one could paint like that to-day.

But over in Holland there's a man called Hans Van Meegeren who has already made a million pounds by faking Vermeers. He had so much money when the Germans left that the Dutch police said he must have got it by collaborating and they put him under arrest.

When he told them he'd made it out of painting Vermeers they laughed and said, "Let's see you paint one now."

So he said, "All right, I will," and after two months, watched all the time by six witnesses, he produced a "Vermeer" that the experts had to agree was just like the real thing.

HE had even mixed the same materials in his paint that the old master used, so that it would stand up to a chemical analysis.

He sold one of his fakes to Goering, who wanted a Vermeer because Hitler had one.

Occasionally genuine Vermeers turn up. There's supposed to be one missing in England called "The Boy With a Flute." It measures 7in. by 7 1/2in. and is worth a fortune.

Juvenile Delinquency In Japan Now Lower

Juvenile delinquency in Japan is to-day lower than it has ever been, SCAP officials told nine visiting American newspaper executives.

The officials said Japanese women police had been diverted from their first jobs, as traffic police had now been trained to combat juvenile delinquency, which exists as a result of the loss of homes and families during the war.

Public Safety experts told the visiting newspapermen that the Japanese police were earnestly and honestly trying to become democratic trying to help the masses with the development of their new hobby—"democracy".

The newspapermen were told the people "lacked this new hobby" with great eagerness and "there is every possibility they will permanently adopt it".

They said at least 80 percent of the members of the Japanese police force were new, with terms of service of less than a year. Many old members had quit because of the low pay and top police officials had been purged. Experts said that Japanese police methods were improving.

Rolling Stock earmarked. Transportation experts said 800 Japanese locomotives and 3,000 freight cars had been marked for reparations, but they expressed the view that few of these would leave the country because they could not be used to advantage elsewhere due to the narrow gauge system standards by which they were constructed.

The newspapermen were told that the railway system in Japan annually handled six times as many people as moved by the rail systems in the United States. This was due to the fact that highway traffic was much lower in the country.

The newspapermen were also told that the Japanese fleet was "practically destroyed twice" during the war. Allied officials said the Japanese had no long-range highway development programme at this time, but that SCAP hoped to help with such planning.

Electric Cars. Japanese experts were reported to be looking into the possibility of developing electric cars for Japan, as well as a system of battery-charging stations throughout the nation to keep them supplied with power. SCAP officials seemed highly in favour of this idea.

It was revealed that during the war days, when Allied bombers started numerous fires throughout Japan, the gasoline situation was so bad that the

fire departments' best fire trucks were allotted only 3.7 gallons of gasoline per month.

Tokyo's water system is in such bad shape to-day that 56 percent of the water in the mains is lost before it reaches consumers, SCAP authorities told the visiting pressmen.—United Press.

BBC's Youngest Announcer

Sixteen-year-old Daphne Blackhall has recently become the youngest announcer in the British Broadcasting Corporation. She is to announce a television programme for young people called "Teen-Age."

Daphne is still at her co-educational school, studying for matriculation. She thinks no one should smoke, drink or use make-up before the age of 18. On the other hand, she thinks grown-ups ought to treat young people of her age not as children, but as "persons."

She thinks the British Broadcasting Corporation has taken a step in the right direction with its new programme. She first read about the audition for the post of television announcer in a newspaper. Her brother teased her into applying for it—she was one of a hundred girls who did so.

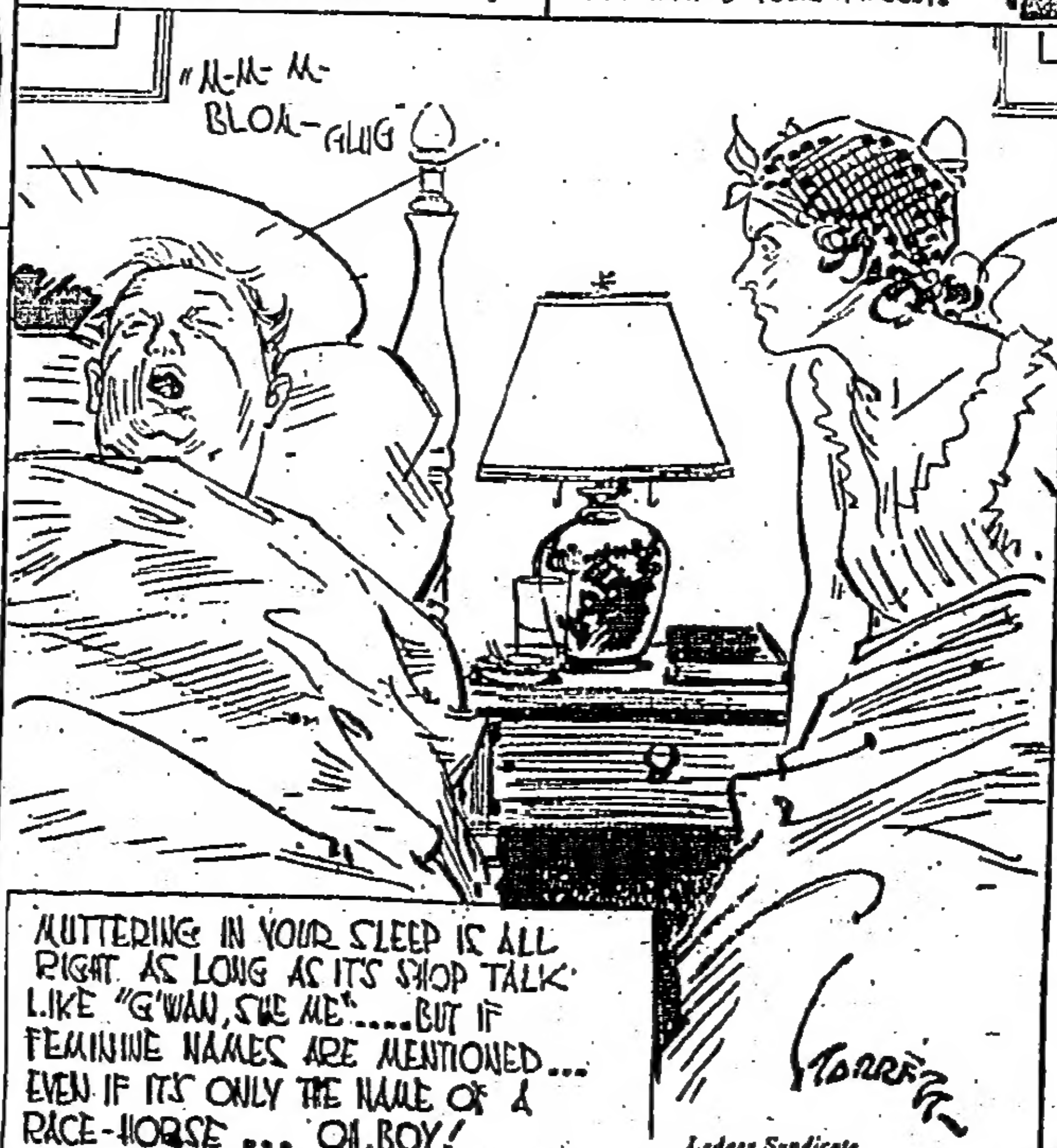
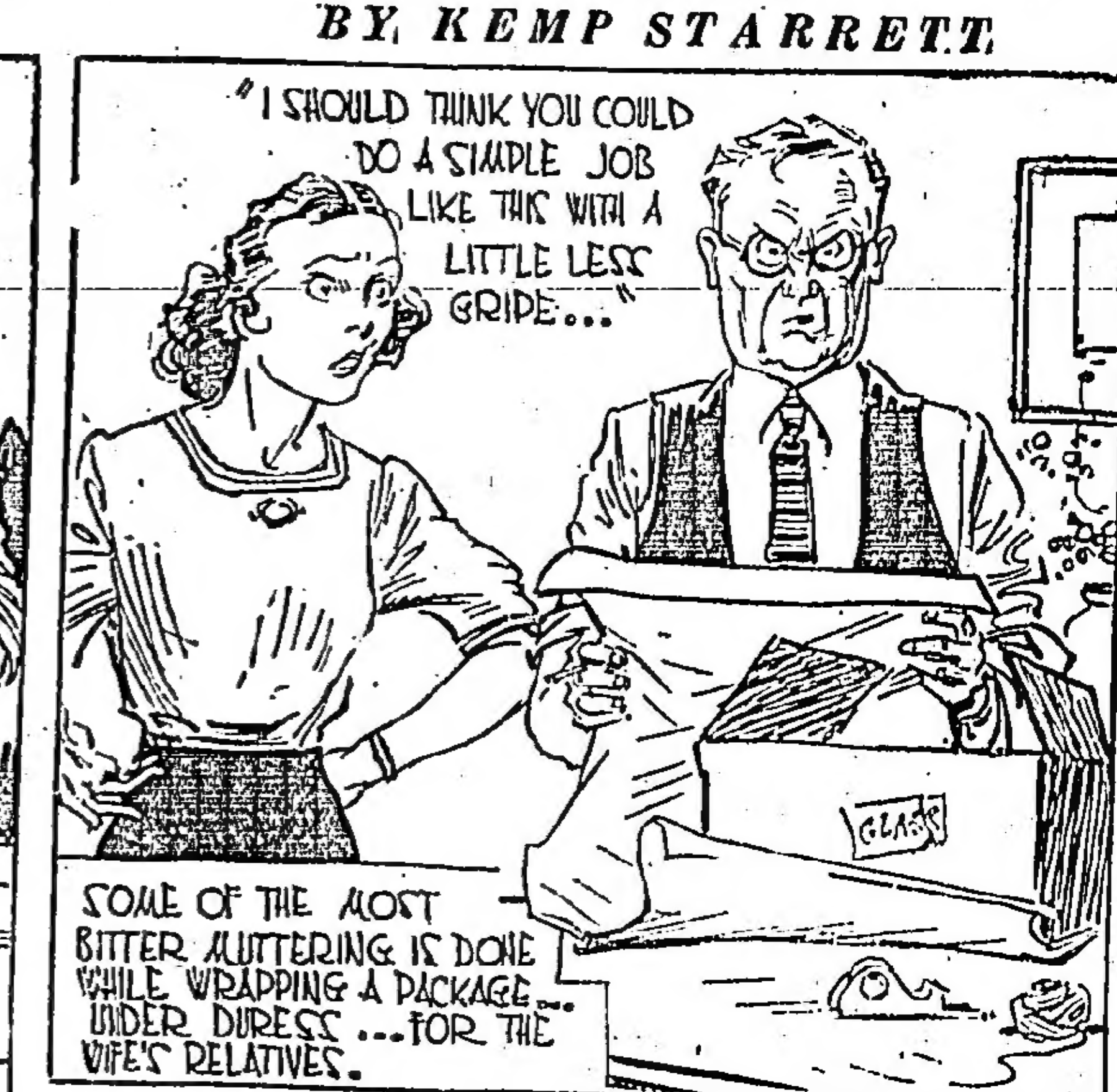
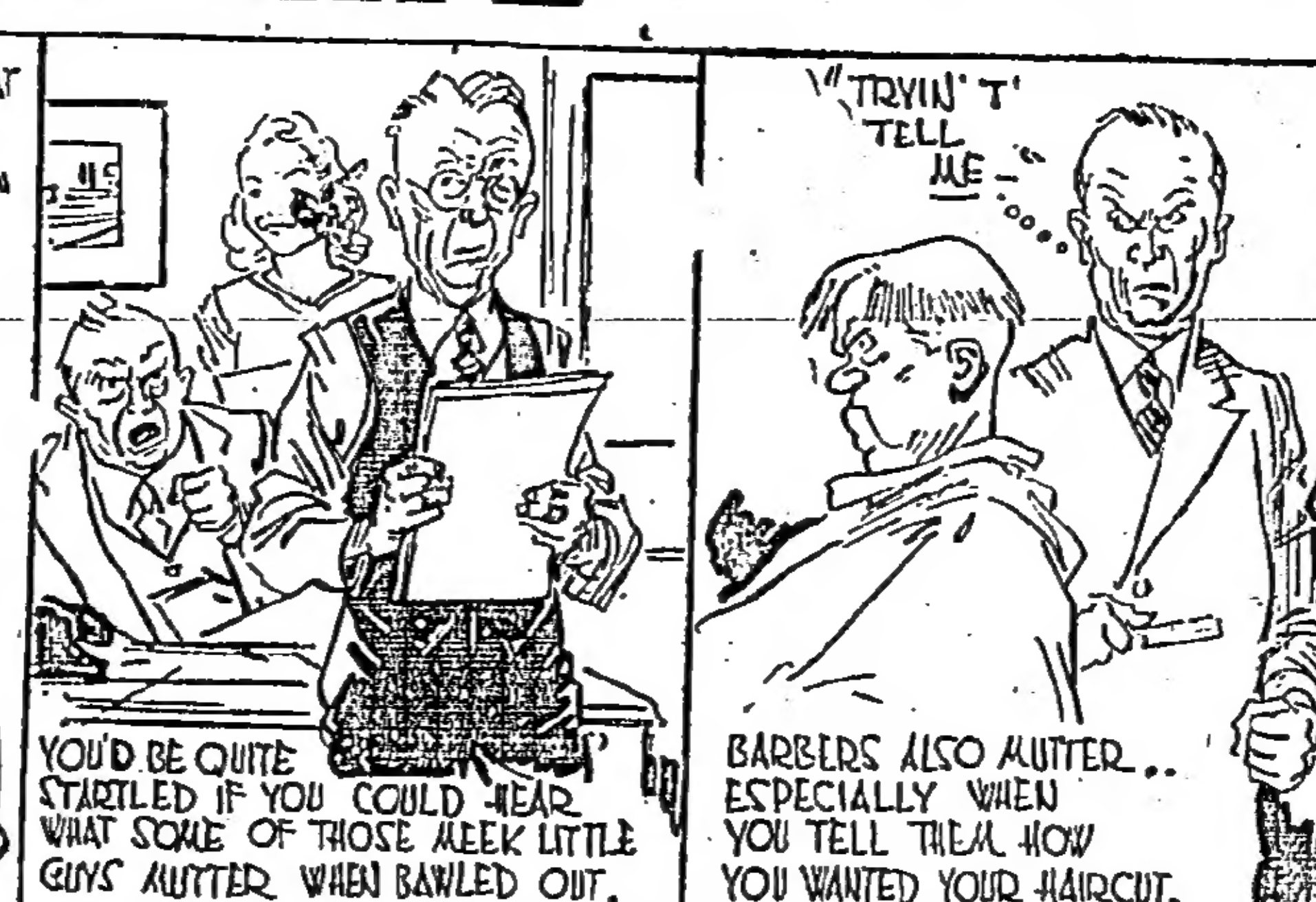
FEATHERWEIGHT TITLE BOUT

It is announced that the world featherweight championship between Nel Tarleton, the British champion and Willie Pep, the American holder, may now take place in February. Originally fixed for January 28, it was postponed owing to Pep injuring himself in training.

AUSTERITY NOTE

A dog's life and austerity note: John Sammond of London was fined £15 for feeding his hunting dog one meal of corned beef—a week's ration for 60 people, reports United Press.

VIGNETTES OF LIFE



Life in Russia To-day—Final Article

Cultural and other spare time pursuits

SOVIET people have much the same taste in amusements as we have; but their recreation, like ours, was cut during the war.

Football has a big following, but the Russians think it strange of us to play during the winter. They cannot understand why the ground is not too hard and why we do not slip up on the ice. In Russia summer is the football season, and matches take place in the late afternoon, when the heat is less.

There are no football pools and not much betting on matches. But in normal times there are horse races with a State-operated tote. Of course, there are no bookies.

At the end of the war horse-racing was already beginning again in Moscow, and there is a State lotto. But the main outlet of the gambling instinct has been, oddly enough, the war loan.

One is encouraged to subscribe generously to the State loans; in some cases, interest is paid, and in other cases lucky numbers win prizes—such as a fur coat, a bicycle or something equally desirable.

Nearly everyone who can opt for the chance of a prize. After all, the interest would be only a small sum, and Russians are not interested in small sums.

Most parks in the Soviet Union are called "Parks of Culture and Rest." When a park is shut I have seen notices which say: "Park not working."

These parks have trees and flower beds and benches like other parks, but, in addition, skating rinks and places to hire skis. In the big Moscow parks there are also parachute towers and many of the amusements of a fun fair.

PALACE PARKS

THE loudspeakers blare unceasingly, and many of the trees bear large portraits of leading members of the Soviet Government. I prefer the parks attached to some of the old palaces of the nobility near Moscow, such as the park and palace of Ostankino, which has been converted with superb showmanship into a museum of serfdom.

It sends a shudder down one's back to realise how many thousand serfs the Shermetsky family had and what their powers over them were. They had their own theatre with serf dancers and singers; the palace was built by serf architects; and even the family portraits were painted by serf artists. The standard of taste was as mediocre as one would expect from people who relied on serfs for half the best things in life.

Chess is perhaps the national Russian game. It is played with great seriousness by both sexes and all classes, and important matches are fully reported in the Press and closely followed by the public. A championship match will fill a large concert hall in Moscow with an eager and well-informed audience, ranging from small boys to distinguished "Grossmeisters" of the game.

SWIM FOR FUN

PEOPLE play at cards, but the games seem simpler than ours, and I have never seen anyone play bridge—or, for that matter, whist. Once, on a railway journey, I was asked by some Red Army officers to make up a team at Preference. I had previously imagined that this game was played only by the respectable old ladies in Russian country houses a hundred years ago.

Cricket is unknown to them, and is not distinguished from croquet. In the summer there is a good deal of swimming, and this is one of the few sports which Russians of all ages enjoy for the fun of it. Your Russian always seems to have the idea that in undertaking sport he must equip himself to be a better citizen.

Very often this sentiment amounts to nothing more than, so to speak, saying grace before meals. But the Russians have not got the idea that sports are something for all ages and for everyone except the halt, the lame and the blind, just because it is fun to be out of doors and exercise physical skill.

As our Embassy flanked the river some of us thought it would be a good idea to be able to take a boat out in the evenings. We found we should have to join a rowing club in order to have access to boats at all. When the difficulties of joining were overcome we found we had to take the sport very seriously indeed. We were obliged to join crews and to train in earnest—usually at a very early hour. Fortunately, I became ill after the first practice.

Perhaps the Russians are too near the age when excessive physical work is the lot of nearly everyone. They get a great deal of enjoyment out of life, but they have no word for fun. One Russian intellectual

was puzzled and delighted at Mr Churchill's statement in "My Early Years" that "politics was great fun."

There is tennis in the big towns, but the general standard of play is still low. Volley ball is widely played.

The cinema is popular, and people like the same kind of films as we do, but there are not enough cinemas to go round, and cinema-going is not such a regular part of life.

You have probably seen some of the best Soviet films, which are so good as any in the world; but, of course, there are many less important films which do not get out of Russia.

Perhaps the biggest difference is that in Russia there is no system of stars. There are well-known actors and actresses; but people go to see a film rather than a star.

This series has described many phases of Russian life to-day which are probably unknown to most people outside the country. It ends with this fifth and final instalment.

The author is

JOHN LAWRENCE

formerly Press Attache to the British Embassy in Moscow

Soviet actresses have none of the "glamour" in the technical sense which is part of the stock-in-trade of actresses in Western countries.

The Soviet stage has produced many people of great charm in private life, but they seem to have less sense of their own social importance than an English actress of the same standing would have. I have always considered beautiful actresses far above ordinary mortals such as myself.

This is based on observation in Russia proper, and may not apply to other parts of the Soviet Union. I am glad to record that in Uzbekistan, for instance, the leading actresses have glamour in our sense.

Russia, with a population say four times that of the United Kingdom, has about the same number of cinemas as we have. Some of the best cinemas in Moscow are well appointed and efficient, but most Soviet cinemas are rather dingy, sometimes dirty, and suffer severely from bad projection and insufficient illumination.

For instance, the night scenes in "Desert Victory"—which, incidentally, was a great eye-opener to the Soviet public—were scarcely visible at all, and I have heard of people walking out in the middle because they could see nothing.

SOVIET RADIO

DURING the war all private owners of receiving sets had to hand them in, so that wireless listening was confined to loudspeakers at street corners and in clubs.

Last year these receivers, which had been carefully put away, were returned to the owners. The sets were generally in good condition and comparatively few of them had been mislaid.

Russians like to listen to foreign stations, and nearly all the sets are short-wave. They were easy to buy before the war.

Even so wireless and public loudspeakers prevail, so that there is no freestyle touch about the Soviet radio, and much of it is more like a public meeting than a broadcast.

There are plenty of good concerts, but the repertoire is—very much so with Russian classical music. There are endless concerts of folk-songs of Russia and the other countries of the Soviet Union—and of Allied countries, including our own. "Annie Laurie" and "The Miller of Dee" I particularly remember.

There is scarcely anything like the BBC's feature programme, and in general the Soviet radio is technically unimpressive. But there are some first-class readings from literature—for instance, passages from "War and Peace" read by the greatest actors of the Soviet Union.

The equivalent of "talks" in our programme is often filled by a newspaper article which is merely read out. Radio personality scarcely exists, except in Levitin, the Stuart Hilbert of Russia.

FOR CHILDREN

BUT children's programmes are more enterprising, and Lev Kasal's "Children's Round Table" is as popular as anything the BBC does. The Russians have some excellent children's writers, all of whom know the English children's literature from "Alice in Wonderland" onwards. Good broadcasts of "Winnie the Pooh" and "Uncle Remus" have been given.

And technically, too, the children's programmes are more inventive than the rest. One broadcast of Gogol's short story "A Night in May" was like one of the very best BBC feature programmes.

During the war there was no programme planning, and it was impossible to find out what was going to be broadcast. The radio officials described their methods as "putting out the most important news first." Indeed, the Soviet wireless does—Even before the revolution the standards of production of the best

generally make important announcements first, and anyone who listens systematically would pick up much interesting news which is excluded from the papers through lack of space.

The Soviet regime has never given broadcasting high priority, so that equipment and wiring are rather primitive. At one period of the war one used sometimes to get a Tchaikovsky concert from the wired wireless "thrown in" when one was phoning.

The theatre, on the other hand, is on a higher plane than anything that exists in any other country. The Government have always given the drama high priority as a means of popular education, and are fast developing a network of theatres all over the country.

This series has described many phases of Russian life to-day which are probably unknown to most people outside the country. It ends with this fifth and final instalment.

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Russian theatres were the highest in the world, and more care was taken with every phase of the art.

The number of good theatres has been multiplied many times over, and in Moscow one could go to a different play almost every night of the year and always see something new and worth seeing.

The theatres are heavily subsidised, which makes it possible to have large casts and to spend whatever time is necessary on rehearsal, as well as having several plays running simultaneously at each theatre.

SOVIET THEATRE

THE methods of production are nowadays traditional, and I fancy there are no new dodges to be learned from the Soviet theatre. But the quality of the productions is something far above what we are accustomed to.

I do not say that the best Soviet productions are better than the Old Vic productions, but they are more of a good—and there are many more of them.

And this is not only in Moscow and Leningrad, but in the most distant capitals of the Union Republics. I have seen performances at Tashkent and in Armenia which were up to this standard; we all enjoyed them without understanding a word of the language.

The demand for seats far exceeds the supply, and last year it was as hard to get into a theatre in Moscow as in London. It was easy to find the theatre from the stream of people in the street asking each new arrival for a spare ticket. Lonely foreigners sometimes take an extra ticket on purpose.

The highbrow theatres of Moscow and Leningrad perform the world's classics of all countries and all ages, and are prepared to spend any amount of time studying the production of a new play.

Here are some English plays which have been performed in Moscow during the war: "Othello," "Twelfth Night," "The Taming of the Shrew," "As You Like It."

Shakespeare: "The School for Scandal," "The Duke," "Goldsmith: 'She Stoops to Conquer'."

Priestley: "The Inspector Calls," Shaw: "Pygmalion," Dickens: "The Pickwick Club."

This last is one of the greatest successes of the Moscow Arts Theatre and makes perhaps the best play of any adapted novel. The production is excellent and very much in the English spirit, although Sam Weller is rather disappointing. Russian producers do not yet seem to understand the cockney type.

Moscow producers were incessant in their demand for new English plays, and there is no doubt that more would have been put on if we had been able to produce more good war plays of a suitable kind.

There have been fewer American plays, but Lillian Hellman's "The Little Foxes" and "Watch on the Rhine" were very successful.

There are also variety theatres more or less on the lines of our revues, but these do not, on the whole, attract as much talent as the revues in our country. The reason for this is the high priority given to the highbrow theatres.

OPERA AND BALLET

THE Russian opera is one of the most magnificent in the world; it performs mainly the Russian operas, which are too little known in the West.

The younger brother of opera is operetta, and the aim of the authorities is to set up an operetta theatre in every city.

In Soviet life the operetta fills part of the place left vacant by the absence of good jazz. The best operetta and light ballet theatres, like the Stanislavsky Theatre in Moscow, are very good, but there are still some dreary operettas in the provinces.

The mainstay of the repertoire is, of course, the classical French operetta of Offenbach and the Viennese school. Soviet operetta is only just getting under way.

The Russians do not know "The Beggar's Opera," and Gilbert and Sullivan. There is a chance for a Soviet producer to make a big reputation by starting up with Gay and Gilbert and Sullivan.

In writing of the Russian ballet I am sure to shock some readers; if I criticise I shall be accused of blasphemy, but if I praise without qualification I shall be told that I am several decades out of date.

The fact is that ballet in the Soviet Union is first-class in its own particular line, but both style and repertoire are limited.

You will see better corps de ballet in Russia than you have seen before, and dancers who dance their particular parts are perhaps a tiny bit better than the greatest Western ballerinas—many of whom are themselves Russian.

But the standards of decor are lower. For instance, the decoration for the productions I saw of the "Sleeping Beauty" would be rejected by a British ballet audience.

But in their own line the Russians are unequalled. Recent performances of Giselle, particularly when Ulanova is dancing, are perhaps the most wonderful ballet performances I have ever seen.

TASTE

IN painting "realism" is the established policy—and this means realism in the Victorian sense.

Not merely is Picasso condemned; but, for instance, some of our most effective and popular posters—such as those of the LPTB—are considered by the Union of Soviet Artists to deviate from the correct line. One is asked: "How can the people understand this?"

The official taste is that of the intelligent working man. Taste in painting comes to most people later than taste in literature or music, because it is easy to get hold of a book and not very difficult to go to concerts, but to acquire a liking for good painting one must go specially and many times to the very few places on earth where good pictures are shown.

My view is that Soviet official taste in literature is sound, but unsophisticated. It canonises nothing untested, but it misses something. The official taste in music is already more limited; and in painting and sculpture the artist is asked to work to the wrong specification.

Russians are great readers, but they are historically much nearer to illiteracy than our own people. Books are harder to get, and a new book is more of an event. Russians read slowly and methodically all through, and remember more of what they read than the last two generations in the West have remembered.

All printing is in the hands of the Government, who print only what they think will do the people good. Practically all the classics of all countries are obtainable, some more easily than others, but modern works are scrutinised carefully for policy before they can be translated.

Official taste in modern literature is conditioned by what is available in Russia.

By no means all Soviet citizens are ready readers, and it is not unusual to see someone reading the newspaper aloud to a group of listeners. Newspapers were hard to get during the war and were carefully read.

The average reader, after reading the Soviet communiqué and glancing at the headlines, turned first to the foreign news on the back page, which he reads all through, looking for meaning between the lines and noting the position of each item on the page.

Then he would turn to the front page for more war news or home front news. Next he would look at the two middle pages, which gave more background to the news on the front page.

NO CRIME

THE Soviet papers give no crime stories and very little "human interest" material. The style of writing is generally verbose and often flimsy.

Periodicals of various kinds were keenly sought. They are all rather highbrow, the most popular being "Ogonyok," which is about as serious as Time and Tide.

Adventure stories are popular, and detective stories are read with delight by all who know enough English and can get hold of copies. A book called "The Mystery of Dr Burago" was very popular during the war, and there are indications of an attempt to develop a Soviet school of detective novels. This will certainly be expected to fulfil a social purpose.

At school the children learn to know their own literature, and a spontaneous taste for the more popular Russian classics, such as Pushkin, Tolstoy, Chekhov, Krylov's fables and parts of Lermontov, is almost universal.

Shakespeare is read in modern Russian and is not made a subject of examination. Not many of his plays are known by most Russians, and he strikes home.

Dickens and Kipling; Mark Twain and Jack London are favourite readings of young and old and Byron has the usual success of destiny. Priestley is the best known among contemporary writers.

POCKET CARTOON



Alarming State of Affairs

By "CANDIDUS"

IF the peoples of the British Empire and the United States were to put the same energy and enthusiasm in winning the peace as they did in winning the war, they, the world in general would be far happier to-day.

Since the V-J Day, there has been a long—seemingly never-ending—story of strikes, discord and universal dissatisfaction.

In Britain, the immediate results of a Socialistic doctrine can only be described as chaotic. If nationalisation of certain industries and public services can show no better results than those obtaining to-day, then the soon the promises of millenium are appreciated for what they are worth; and the people who swallowed the assurances of political experimenters realise their mistake, the sooner will we get back to days of political sanity.

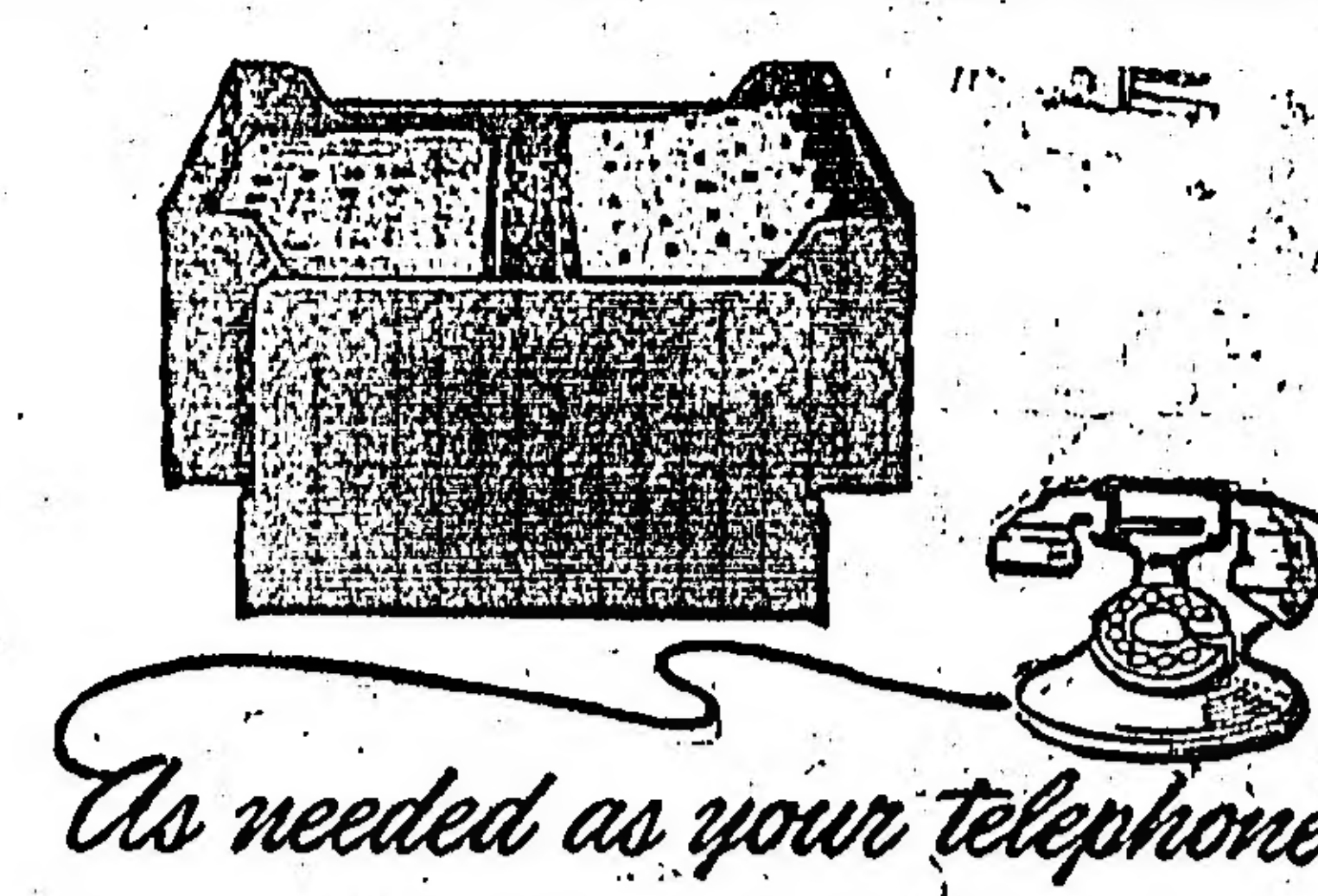
The closing down of first-line industries because of an insufficiency of coal is possibly the first writing on the wall which will spell the doom of those who rush in where angels would fear to tread. However, this is not a political column, and the writer boasts no particular political leaning. Nevertheless, the alarming state of affairs in the homeland to-day must call for an expression of grave concern from the Colonies. After all, the political faction which rules Britain also rules us—and, at the moment, many of us don't like it.

THAT we have the same feelings of concern and apprehension about China is also quite natural. For our part, we wish to be friendly and constructive; but today there appears to be a desire in China to spurn friendly overtures, to ignore the necessity and wisdom of reciprocity, and to foster a spirit of isolationism which is fast ruining the great country which should be so closely associated with Hongkong.

It is true, of course, that the people of China have but little say in their political destiny, but those who become leaders must surely realise that as one of the Five Great Powers in the world China not only has a duty to her people but to the world in general. The present political trend is harmful alike to China as well as to her friends.

HONGKONG could, of course, do much more than it does in endeavouring to offset the absurd and damaging propaganda carried on by the multitude of vernacular newspapers which are published here. The British case is distorted beyond imagination, and nothing appears to be done to counter some of the ridiculous reports which appear. It is not only necessary for us to emphasise facts, but to deny as factual some of the tendentious propaganda which is pumped out daily against Great Britain in this British colony.

Irresponsible publications which do give offence, and at the same time incite opposition to British ideals and rule, should be suppressed, and those responsible for publication deported. What would happen to a British newspaper operating in China—or any other country for that matter—which went out of its way to discredit the country in which it was permitted to operate, and which published issues of lies and misrepresentation? Not a very difficult question to answer, but one which should have been considered and dealt with in Hongkong many months ago.



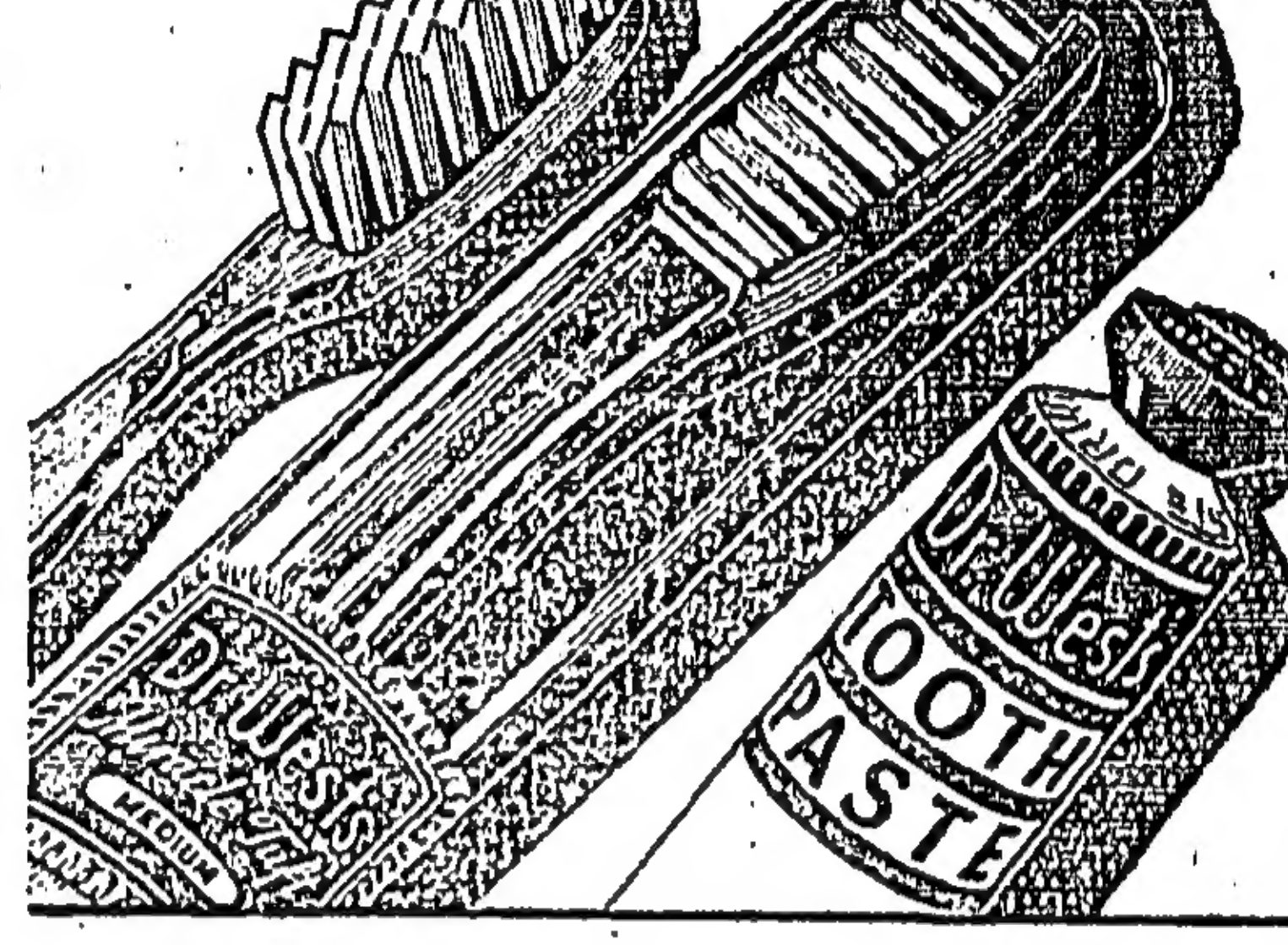
Rock-a-File

AND JUST AS HANDY CARD CABINET

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General To Be Released For Princess Elizabeth

A dark-eyed Jewess, smiling away her tears in Stuttgart, Germany, told the story of the first German general to be given freedom from American imprisonment—her husband.

Holding a wartime photo of Lt-Gen Guenther Lohmann of the Luftwaffe in trembling hands, 46-year-old Frau Maria Lohmann said: "After our years of suffering, this is too good to be true."

A letter with an American army postmark was lying on a table in her tiny Stuttgart flat, and she re-opened it tenderly because "it must have helped my husband to be released."

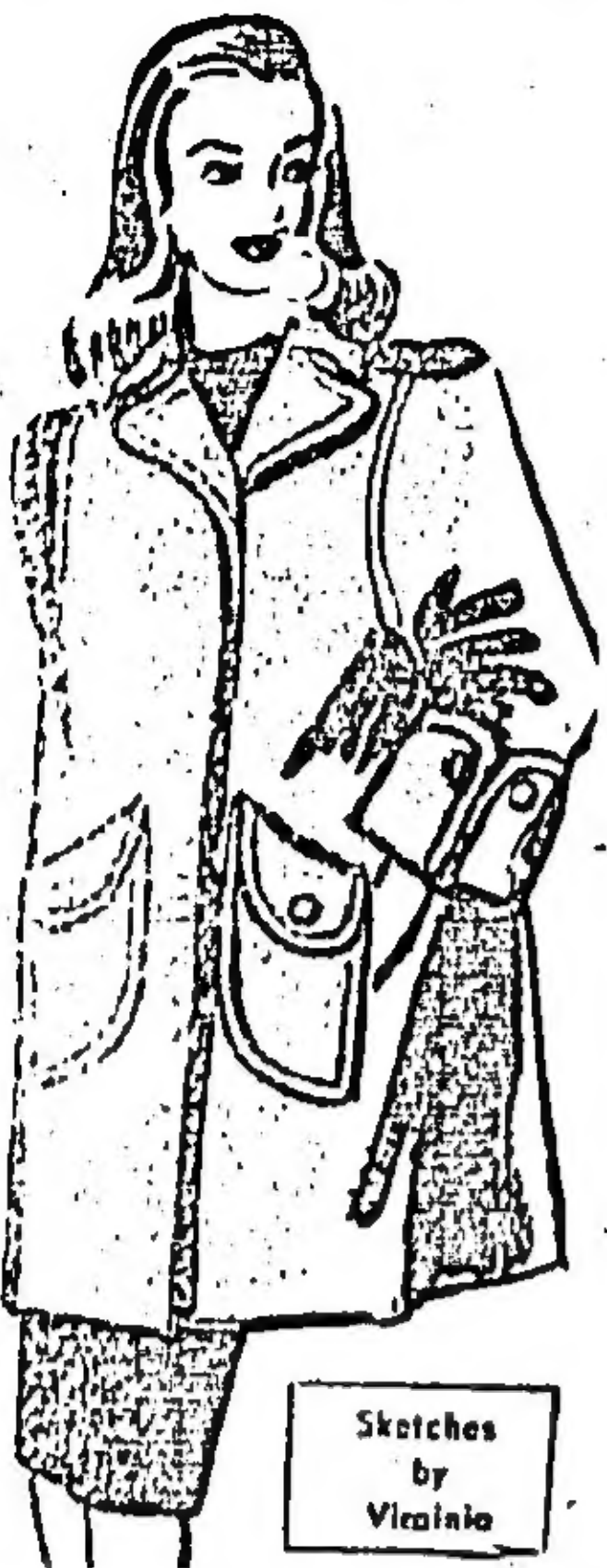
"I know of course that you were never affiliated with the Nazis," said the letter to Lohmann, "and regretted the course pursued by your country as far back as 1936."

The man who wrote that statement last year, Frau Lohmann explained, had been a foreign pupil of her husband at a German war college when the world was still at peace. A firm signature at the bottom was unmistakable—"Albert C. Wedemeyer, Lt-Gen of the United States Army."

Also under consideration as Princess Elizabeth's London home is Princess Beatrice's suite in Kensington Palace, which has been recently redecorated.

WOMEN'S INTERESTS

The Fashions for Spring



Sketches by Virginia



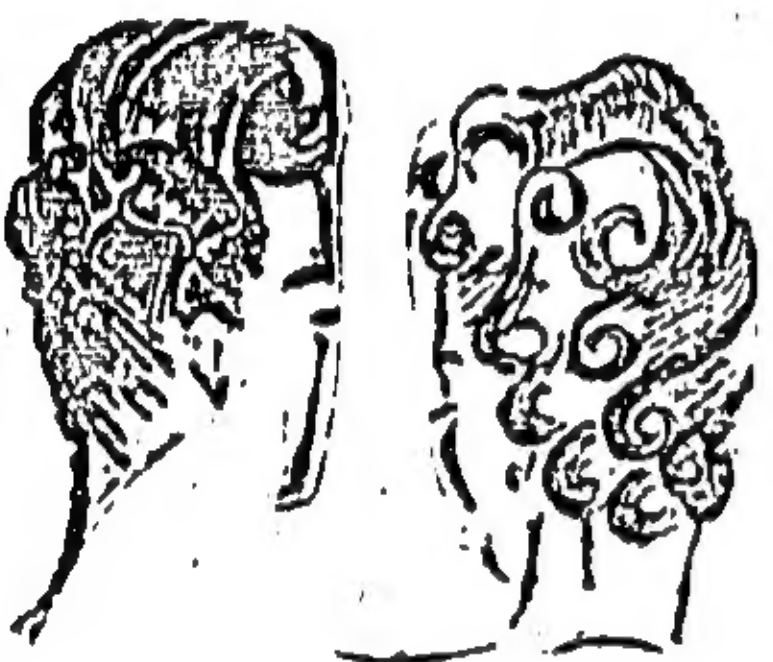
SPRING fashions are up and coming. Clothes-conscious women must plan their winter-into-spring outfits now. Here, right above, is a seventh-century cowl of soft misty

angora. Points that count are dolman, deeply cuffed sleeves and huge pockets with an unexpected side opening. This Windsore coat has been a great favourite in London since Christmas. Fully lined, it cost £18.

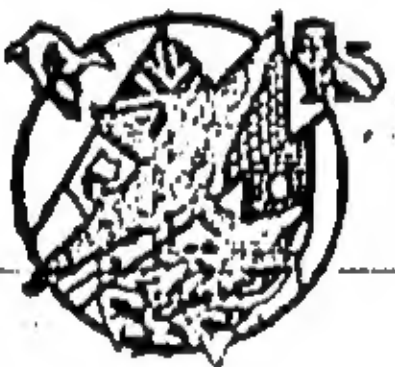
ON the right is one of the first utility coats to be seen in black boucle. This beautifully plain Harella model has just become available in London.

Collarless, flaring from a well-defined waist, the coat is fastened with a single gilt-and-wood button, and has a pocket on either side. Cost in London, £7.

Mimi Makey
GABRIELLE



Do you brush the powder off of your necklines? Do you straighten your lipstick? Do you take a good, long, last lingering look at the back of your head? Do you brush up the stray hairs with a tiny touch of handline? All of these little details add up to Good Grooming. And they take but an Extra Minute!



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SHANGHAI (CHINA) and LONDON (UNITED KINGDOM).

POSTWAR BEAUTY

COSMETIC makers have introduced their new colours with the advice to women to cultivate a glowing personality. At a cocktail party in the fashionable Bond Street salon, "Red Grape," the new rich ruby red lipstick was shown with a faintly opalescent powder to achieve that desired "glow."

Every woman is asked to forget that she recently was stalwart and uniformed, marching briskly to duty. Now she is to be a ravishing creature, luxurious and mysterious, with an enchantment reminiscent of the Gaiety Girls.

The new colours are a perfect complement to the feathers, the velvets, and the regal colour combinations of the winter season.

The new make-up has a luminous foundation, calculated to give a delicate tint to the face suggesting moonlight.

Only the lipstick strikes a definite note.

It is deep red with a blue undertone.

Lipstick, too, has a fluorescent sparkle in artificial light.

This fascinating glow effect is achieved in whole ranges of colours. They must all be used carefully with the various colour combinations.

NEWEST SHADE

Though austerity or cat remains, there is a wide range of colours to choose from in the dress shops, and the postwar woman works out her colour scheme with colour and make-up as carefully as she works out her wardrobe on her meagre number of coupons.

"Red Grape," the newest shade, is worn with a "black snuff" (newest London shade), helen green, and plum.

"Peony" is worn with purplish blues, wine, and grey.

"Red Feather" is for black, navy, putty, and blue.

"Redwood" is for old rose, Air Force blue, beige, and all tweeds.

Hand-painted dresses are the vogue

By GABRIEL COURTIAL

Ladies, hand-painted dresses are the next items for your wardrobe.

Madame Andree Gabrion, Paris artist, has developed a method of painting on silks, velvets, wools and cottons, just like

on a nice smooth canvas. And she is commercialising it by staffing the vogue for hand-painted clothes.

At a fashion show recently, Mme Gabrion presented several charming mannequins wearing evening dresses which ranged in patterns from vine trails hung with golden grapes to fish swimming in a pearly pond. Other dresses showed green lizards sunning themselves on rocks, autumn leaves swirling in sun rays and seaweed borne on the crest of waves.

What promises to be one of the most popular designs, however, is that of Alpine landscapes, in which are scattered green pines and entire Alpine villages, picturesquely grouped at the skirts of the mountains.

In the same vein was the dazzling white of glaciers and snow in other mountain landscapes.

As Tapestries

In a different style, Mme Gabrion also paints dresses which—hung as tapestries—would greatly enliven the living room. These show the warm exotic colours of flowering landscapes, and old biscuit-coloured hamlets nestled in green foliage.

Not the least of attractions in these new types of dresses is the fact that they wash. Mme Gabrion claims they survive the ordeal of water with fortitude.

Madame also says they will cost less to buy than models from the "grande couturiers," though admittedly, that is high enough.

Incidentally, the new hand-painted style will be a full-swing vogue in dresses, bathing costumes, lingerie and tailor-mades. Mme Gabrion added that one not-to-be despised advantage of this was that even a man would be able to tell his girl's taste in art from the pattern on her dress.—United Press.

GAINSBOROUGH STUDIO

For Portraits of Men

In taking men we aim at a much stronger and more forceful type of picture than that of other sitters. Not for them the softness and delicacy that distinguishes our portraits of women and children. By the use of special lighting we try to stress the character and strength of the male.

So, ladies, when you have succeeded in persuading your husband or boy friend to be photographed, insist that he comes to the

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Wyndham Street. Tel. 21224.

BEAUTY ARTS

By LOIS LEEDS



Posed for Lois Leeds.

Problem skin care isn't difficult. It takes Will Power but it gets results.

PROBLEM SKIN!

The Oily Skin, usually eruptive and full of blackheads, reacts best to soap and water cleansing. Use tincture of green soap or soap emulsion. With this use a complexion brush to stimulate circulation and deeply cleanse the skin, purging it of impurities. Then the oily secretions are less likely to harden into blackheads.

To clean up a bad skin you MUST watch your diet. Water, lots of it, fruit juices, green vegetables are important in the diet. Sweet, rich foods and greasy foods are NOT for you. Rest, relaxation and exercise, as well as lots of fresh air, will aid in clearing up the Problem Skin.

Lots of bathing is important. Scrubbing the body vigorously aids in stimulating circulation. And I cannot stress too often or too strongly the importance of keeping the hair and scalp clean, CLEAN! The health of the scalp has a very definite effect on the skin.

In almost every case of acne or "problem skin" the hair is dank, oily and lustless, with an unhealthy condition existing in the scalp. It is important to improve the health of the scalp. This will help to improve the health of the skin.

The home treatment of the scalp and skin begins and ends with daily

cleansing and stimulating. The skin MUST NOT be "fed" by the use of oils and rich creams. They are definitely harmful in such conditions.

I receive hundreds of letters on this subject. And so many of you tell me that you have "tried everything." Don't you see that that is half the trouble? You irritate your skins with a dab of this or that.

Here is exactly what you need to clear up your skin. A complexion brush, tincture of green soap, skin freshener or pure witch hazel, a healing or aloe lotion (medicated curative lotion). And now we have some wonderful preparations containing sulphur, or, as it is spelled to-day, sulfur. Be sure to inspect these when planning problem skin care.

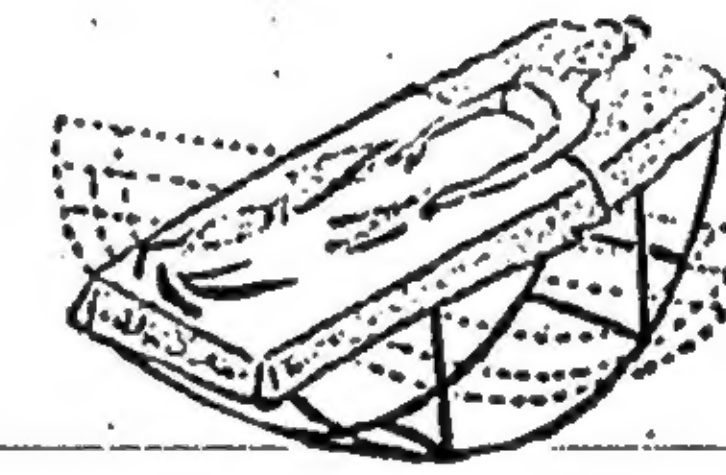
The skin should be washed, then rinsed well. A little freshener or witch hazel is put on with a bit of clean absorbent cotton. Then the healing or aloe lotion should be applied.

The fingertips must be wrapped in cotton wherever blackheads are pressed out. The skin must not be bruised. In stubborn cases of acne or "problem skin," a circulation cream or ointment is very helpful because it further stimulates the skin, relaxes the pores so that blackheads and secretions may be more easily removed.

Here it is—the TIRED BUSINESS WOMAN'S CRADLE

"TELL us about American beauty shops," writes a friend. "Are they really as wonderful as we imagine them?"

I don't know how wonderful that would be, but here is a picture of one of Fifth Avenue's best.



There are eight floors and 200 operators. They work in shifts because more than half the clientele are tired business women who have only the evenings in which to beautify.

Each floor features a different pastel colour scheme, designed to overcome the thing which etches age lines most...tiredness.

ROCK-A-BYE

You start to notice the extraordinary-looking equipment only when you find yourself about to be strapped full-length on to something that looks like a table with rockers for the new "Rock-a-bye Lady face treatment."

Quoting the advertisements, "You rock to the beat, bent, bent of your heart while loveliness flows to your face. You are relaxed. And yet stimulated. This is motionless exercise. When you rise from the Beauty Cradle, you feel glowing, revived, renewed." Price for an hour's treatment: £2 10s.

The "Beauty Scope Analysis" takes three hours and costs £6. Clients begin and end by getting their picture taken. In between, there are interviews with specialists in clothes, figure, skin and make-up and hair. A diet sheet is worked out and the customer given advice on right colours and clothes.

'SUCCESS'—£75

Those who take the beauty business really seriously have the "Success" course. This costs £75, takes six weeks at a minimum of three hours a day.

All treatments are worked out under the supervision of the American Medical Association. Diet and exercises form the basis.

Let's you think that this typifies American beauty shops, however, let me assure you that the small town parlour is very like the one along your own street....

There is one little trick that I hope hairdressers will copy and that's the way they take pins out after setting. Instead of tugging and finger-fumbling, operators "peck" at the head with a thing that looks like an egg that's blunt at one end. It's a magnet, and pins leap up to meet it.

Ten gold thimbles presented in New York have settled the question of America's best designers.

The ten were awarded to designers selected in a nation-wide poll of 50,000 retailers, called by Governor Dewey, who presented the thimbles. "The toughest group of judges in the world."

Some of the creations of the thimble winners are priced as high as £175. Clothes have never cost so much. And there have never been so many buyers.

Thanks to the thimbles, women will be coveting hats if they have a label which says Lily Dache, coats and suits if they have labels by Philip Mangano, or Adrian, furs if labelled by Sol Vogel, shoes by Dan Falter, sportswear by Claire McCardell, lingerie by Thea Tewi, accessories by Richard Koret and dresses by Nettie Rosenstein or Emily Wilkins.

AT THE CASBAH

Emily Wilkins won her thimble for teen-age clothes. Teen-agers have an importance in America, which is a little startling. One entire page of a newspaper is devoted to a 17-year-old high school girl, Kathleen Slattery, modelling between classes "fall clothes" at a Washington store.

Kathleen, says this advertisement, is "peppy as a pepper pot and 108 lb. of whistle bait. After school finds her having cakes at the local Cuckoo with her steady and Saturday nights they're off to the movies or bowling and dancing."

She was amused at my query about the Casbah. "Why surely you know its just slang for drug store."

She likes black trimmed with pastel colours for her dates and is dancing this winter in "ballerinas"—ballet-shaped shoes with flat heels, about a third of an inch thick.

WOLVERINES

Women's colleges have been highlighted lately by the fact that men students have for the first time been admitted to them. Hunter, largest women's college in the world now has 600 ex-Servicemen students, all mightily perturbed, according to reports, because the girls won't leave them alone long enough to study. Wolverines replacing the wolves!

HELENA RUBINSTEIN
Helps You Avoid Midwinter



All day long protect the natural moisture of your skin with Helena Rubinstein's wonderful TOWN AND COUNTRY FILM. Protects the skin from chapping. Obscures little lines. Gives the skin a pearly radiance. Keeps make-up perfect.

FOR EVENING, enhance your natural charms by the aid of Helena Rubinstein. Choose your complexion powder from the wide selection offered you (Rachel, Rose Tan, Pink Champagne Gypsy, Cot d'zur and light or dark Peaches and Cream). There is a Helena Rubinstein lipstick blending in colour with every powder.

Helena Rubinstein
OBTAINABLE AT THE FOLLOWING SELECTED STORES
COLONIAL DISPENSARY CHINA EMPORIUM

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IT'S
CAMPUS MAKE-UP



A MAKE-UP MASTERPIECE

By

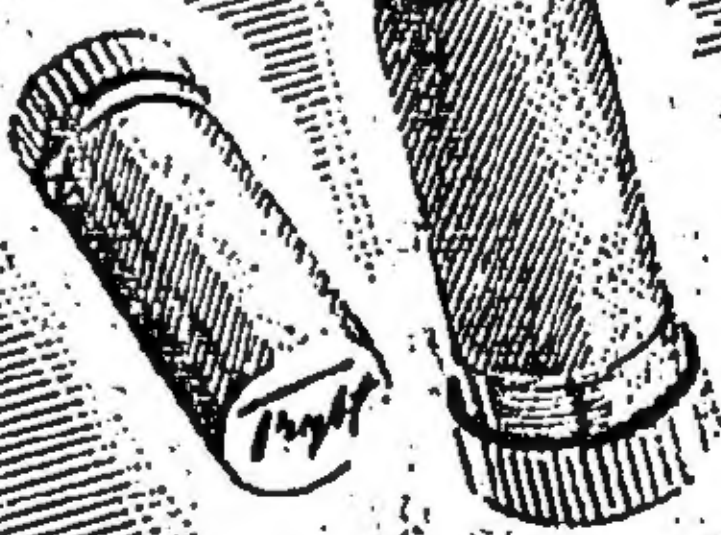
Colonial Dames



ON SALE AT ALL DEPARTMENT AND FINE STORES
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SIX FASCINATING SHADES
INDELIBLE—STAYS FRESH ALL DAY
VELVETY—SMOOTH TEXTURE
NEW LIP-SHAPED PATENTED
DESIGN FOR EASY AND
ACCURATE APPLICATION



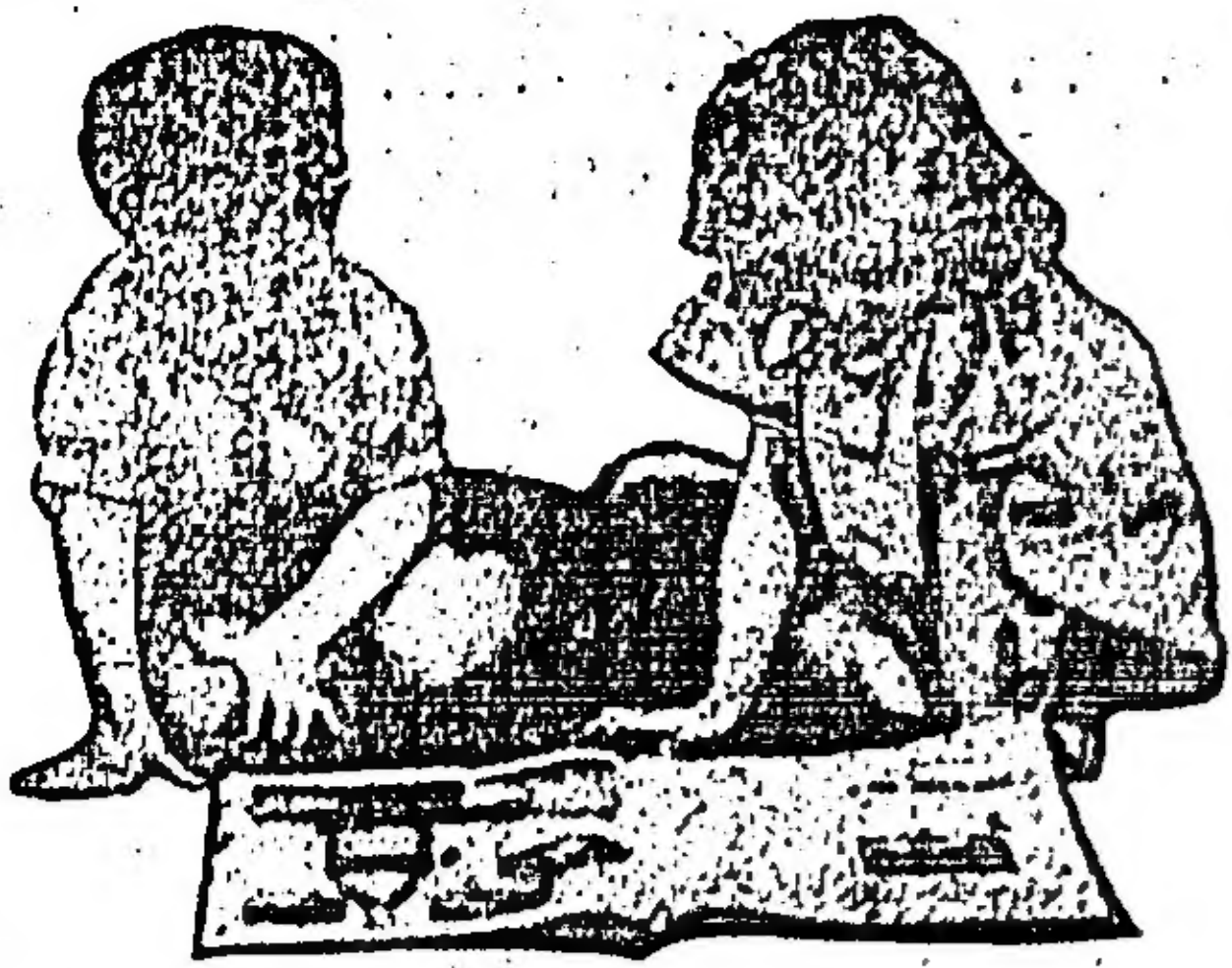
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PROPELLING CASE OF DIGNITY AND CHARM

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AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING STORES

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Of course not. They are your intangible assets . . . beyond all price . . . whose future you alone can protect.

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WHITE HORSE WHISKY

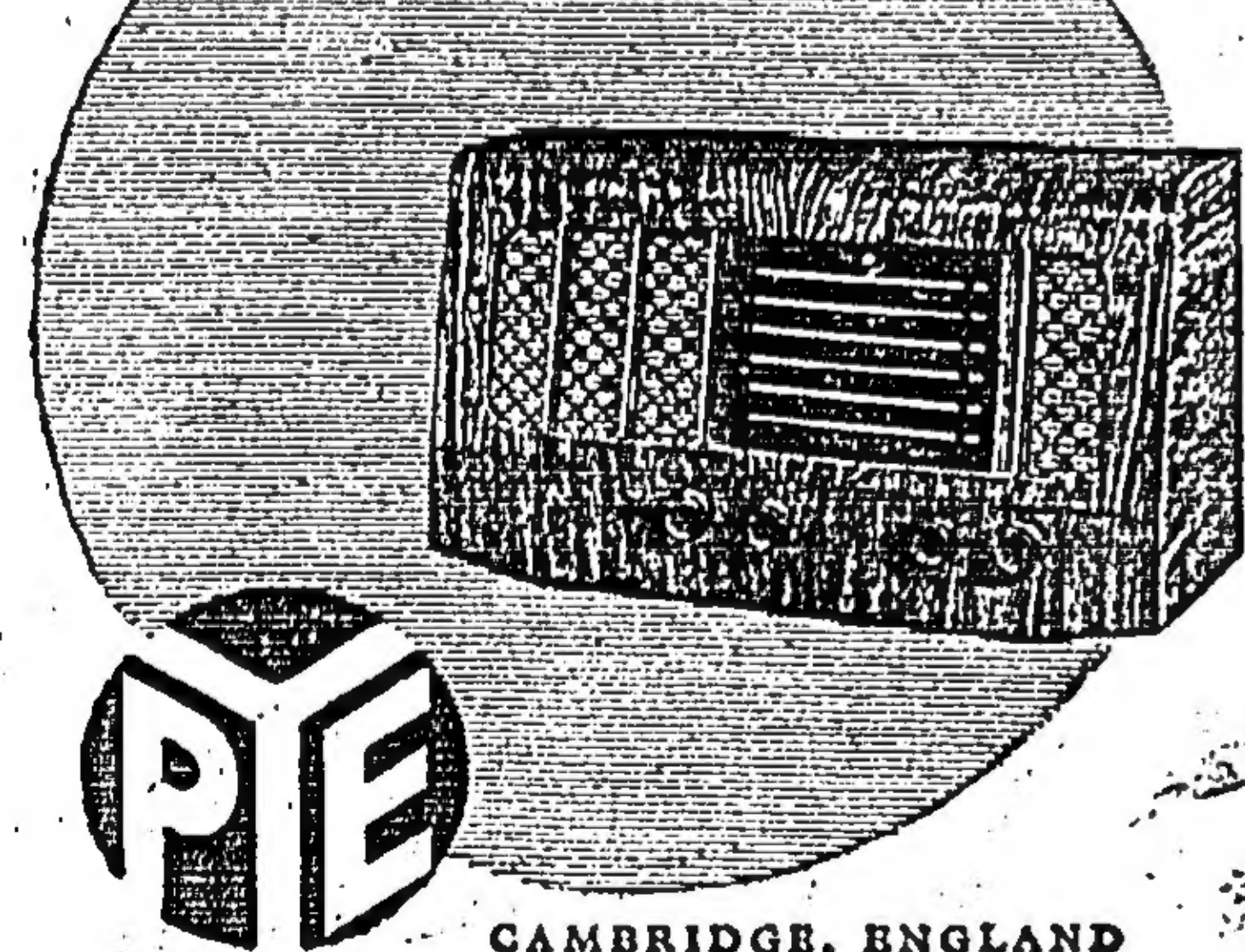
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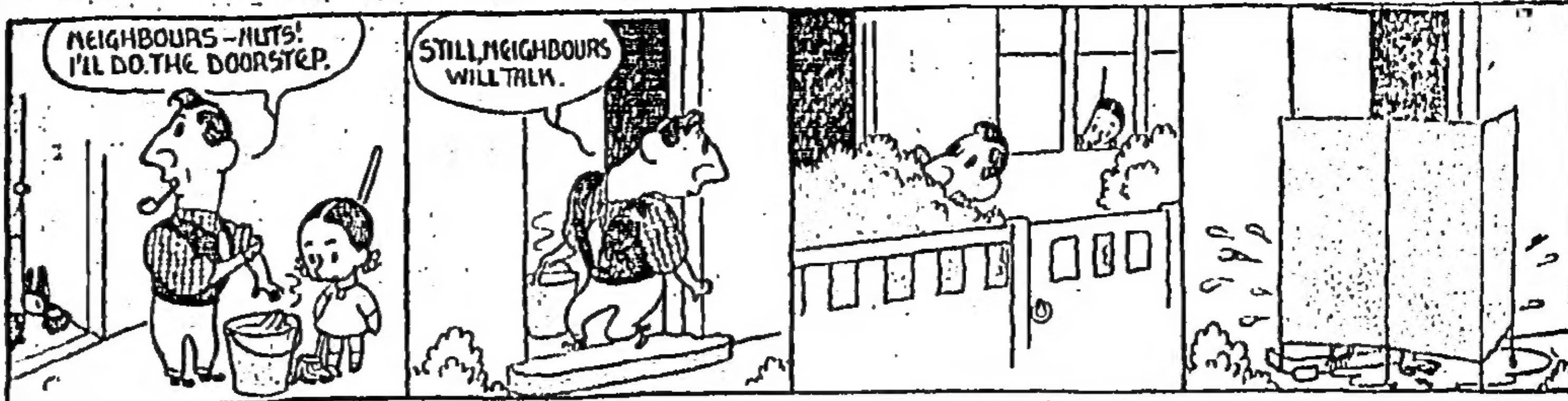
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THE PARKERS



POCKET CARTOON



SHORT STORY

The White Salve

THE peasant woman approached an American soldier who was walking guard outside an Italian mountain village. Wrapped in her shawl was a tiny baby, blue with cold, its twig-like limbs encrusted with sores. She begged the soldier for medicine without which, she said, her bambino would die before the sun set. Though deeply moved, the soldier had to tell her that the isolated unit had no medicines other than the emergency wound kits.

The woman wept, rocking back and forth and holding out the baby in supplication. Finally, the soldier went into his tent and came out with a tube of white salve.

"Squeeze this over the bambino's legs," he told her. "Rub it in well—and pray. Perhaps it will help." A week later the woman returned with a group of ragged peasants. As they came up to the soldier, the men removed their hats and the women crossed themselves. Silently, the woman held out the baby.

Its legs were completely cured. In the weeks that followed, the American soldier's fame as a healer spread through the mountains. Every day before dawn the lame and the sick gathered outside his tent, waiting for him to emerge and treat them with his magic salve. A dozen candles burned in his honour in the little church, and in the spring two babies born in the village were named after him. His name the peasants took from the tube containing the wonder-working salve—Barbasol.

—FRED ROSEN.

GLASS IDOL

DANDY Brigadier BERNARD FERGUSON, who wears a monocle, upstanding moustache and the ribbon of one of the best D.S.O.s of the Burma campaign, was the embarrased idol of the Karen Mission, now in London to argue about Burma Constitution.

This Chindit had 600 Karens in his command on Wingate's first expedition: writes, speaks with conviction of the courage and absolute loyalty of these northern tribesmen.

At Karen conclave, angular Sir HENRY CRAIK re-told Fergusson's intensely moving story of the British officer so badly wounded that he had to be left behind in the jungle to wait for Japs or death, of the Karen rifleman who disobeyed orders and stayed with him.

Long afterwards, news filtered through that the officer had been seen desperately ill in a Japanese prison hospital, that the brave Karen had been shot.

What Craik did not know is that Lieutenant PHILIPPE STIBBE covered, was freed in Rangoon, now lives in Leicester, Riffman MAUNG TUN was not shot, now owns a patch of his native valley, tends his buffaloes.

BEGAN Sir Alan Herbert at heavily gold-laced dinner party: "Admirals and gentlemen."

OLD-TIMERS get nearest to origin of war-torn phrase, "When I get my bowler."

Postcards from long-remembered readers agree that term is pre-both wars: is undoubtedly Edwardian and the suggestion is that when Guards officers resigned their commissions they got their bowlers again, which was the usual headgear of the time. Postcard from reader G. A. BROWN, 43, Hemling-road, Edgware, Middlesex, was the first with this explanation. He concludes: "Any officer resigning his commission...left the Service in the same dress as he entered—hence the tradition."

WILLIAM HICKEY

COMPLEXITIES of London traffic have postponed retirement of SIR ALGER TRIPP, Scotland Yard's traffic chief.

Motorists between Westminster and Hampton will take poor view.

Zealous Tripp, driven daily by headquarters cockade, but still police-constable chauffeur, is apt to go on speedsters. Chauffeur then explains that Assistant Commissioner thinks this and that.

Position of errant motorist who insisted on being summoned by either would be interesting, has never been explored. As police-constable-chauffeur does not wear uniform, he may not institute speeding proceedings. Nor may Assistant Commissioner, whose constabulary powers are the same as yours.

MRS JUNE NORRURY, of Thorne-road, Doncaster, scissored this advertisement, thinks it blood-thirsty: "Fur gloves re-backed with your own skin."

According To Culbertson

(Copyright, 1947, by Ely Culbertson)

One of the most popular misconceptions of bidding has to do with so-called "sign-offs." Let's take a look at a typical case:

South, dealer
North-South vulnerable

NORTH
♦ A J 9 8
♥ Q 8 5
♦ K J 4 3
♣ 7 6

WEST
♦ K 7 3
♥ Q 3 2
♦ Q 8 5
♣ K Q 10 9

EAST
♦ Q 8 5
♥ A 10 7 6
♦ J 5 4 3 2
♣ A 10 7 6

SOUTH
♦ 10 8
♥ A K 10 7 6
♦ 8 5
♣ A 9 8

The bidding:
South 1♥, 2♥, 3♥, 4♥, 5♥, 6♥, 7♥, 8♥, 9♥, 10♥, 11♥, 12♥, 13♥, 14♥, 15♥, 16♥, 17♥, 18♥, 19♥, 20♥, 21♥, 22♥, 23♥, 24♥, 25♥, 26♥, 27♥, 28♥, 29♥, 30♥, 31♥, 32♥, 33♥, 34♥, 35♥, 36♥, 37♥, 38♥, 39♥, 40♥, 41♥, 42♥, 43♥, 44♥, 45♥, 46♥, 47♥, 48♥, 49♥, 50♥, 51♥, 52♥, 53♥, 54♥, 55♥, 56♥, 57♥, 58♥, 59♥, 60♥, 61♥, 62♥, 63♥, 64♥, 65♥, 66♥, 67♥, 68♥, 69♥, 70♥, 71♥, 72♥, 73♥, 74♥, 75♥, 76♥, 77♥, 78♥, 79♥, 80♥, 81♥, 82♥, 83♥, 84♥, 85♥, 86♥, 87♥, 88♥, 89♥, 90♥, 91♥, 92♥, 93♥, 94♥, 95♥, 96♥, 97♥, 98♥, 99♥, 100♥.

West opened the club king. Declarer won and returned the spade ten. When West played low dummy did likewise, and East won with the queen. The club return was taken by West, who now shifted to a low diamond, but South guessed correctly, putting in the jack from dummy, and from that time on the defence was not-existent. Four hearts made—but only two bid!

Granting that a four-heart contract might have met defeat against a less favourable position of cards, the fact remains that North was something less than aggressive, or even reasonably enterprising, when he passed to two hearts. Discussing the result, North said, "But how could I bid again with only about two tricks in my hand, when you (meaning South) signed off with two hearts?"

And there you have the misconception referred to above—the idea, held by so many "average" players that a mere rebid of opener's suit is a sign-off. It is strange, and disappointing, that this fallacy should be so hard to destroy. Consider, please, its very flimsy basis.

It is generally understood and agreed that the opener must not jump his rebid unless he holds a very powerful hand, with either a long, strong suit of his own, or good support for partner's suit, or another suit of his own in a very good hand. Obviously, South's holding did not conform to any of these requirements, so he could do nothing else but bid two hearts over one spade. To treat this as an intended sign-off, however, is to claim that a hand is either very big or very bad, when the obvious fact is that there are millions of holdings "in between."

North unquestionably should have raised to three hearts.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"George really would have preferred to stay home to-night, but he didn't want to give his cold to the children!"

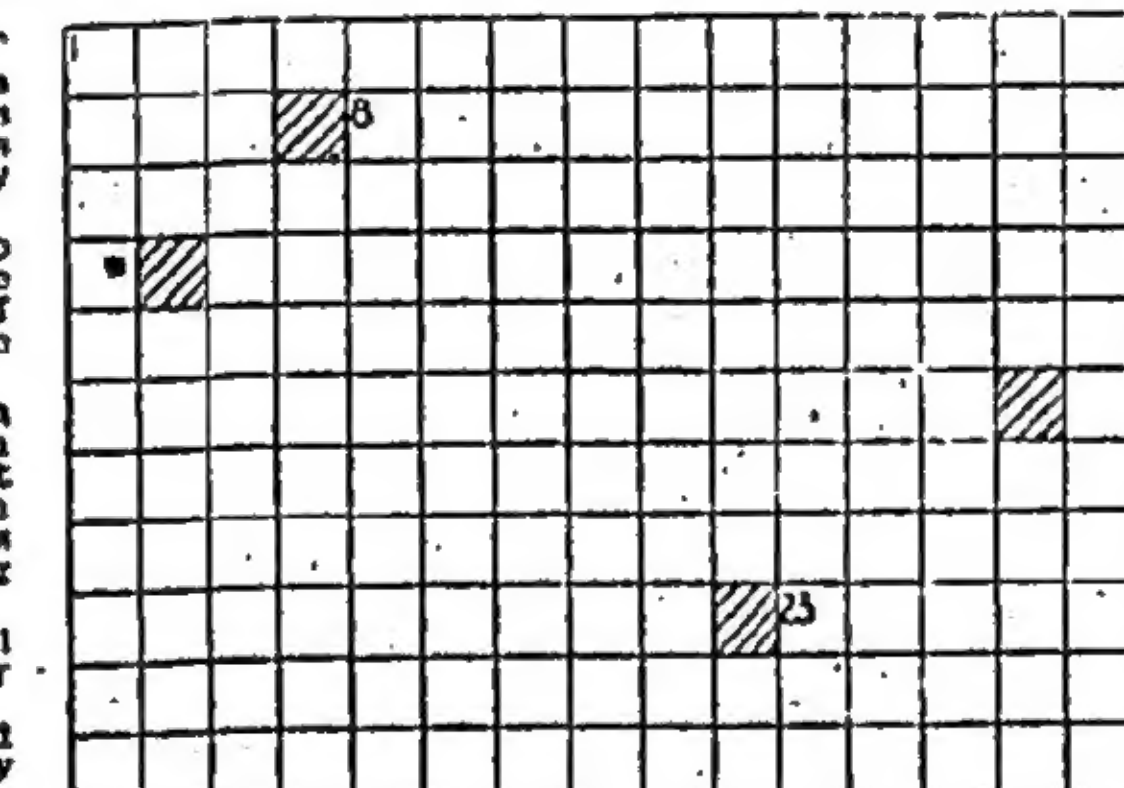
Skeleton Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. This is a word which is used in a very different sense from its original meaning.
2. Where to go to see a play.
3. Such a play should suit the man who is a cheery success.
4. Where shall we turn for a drink?
5. A friend found a very good one by the name of Sussex.
6. East Anglian rivers.
7. Recluse, having got the vocalists all upset.
8. Weapons to take up when going to defend someone else.
9. With the French a meadow.
10. Messenger who should soon be getting a post.
11. The coal we are getting does little more than ignite.
12. Even one letter is enough, as it happens.
13. Those swinging tunes we have still to make.
14. There should be plenty of sea in this Pacific area.
15. Not so many have nutton at heart.
16. Have mercy on the ship!

CLUES DOWN

1. Something for the gardener when he has nothing to do.
2. Islands where card-gambling has been put down.
3. Such a position quatters have been in.
4. Fault of the bridge-playing crooks' temper?
5. "I wandered lonely as a—"
6. (Wordsworth)
7. To a very old lady it's always the day before.
8. Military prisoners of army ago.
9. Such a girl should have success with some.
10. —ain such a baby is most particular.
11. Inclined the ear, to catch a word.
12. Familiarly a pharaoh or a don.
13. Activities due must finish.
14. I have to go in for a competition—shorts—that is, after five.
15. High ground you meet in rolling down to the.



The skeleton crossword you have to fill in black squares and place clue numbers as well as solve the clues. The four black and three clue numbers in the puzzle give you a start.

The design being symmetrical, every black square in the top left quarter must have a corresponding black in the top right bottom left and bottom right quarters. So black all the squares corresponding to the four already shaded and you have 13 black squares.

Study the clue numbers. Before clue 8 you have to find places for 1 and 6 Across and 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 Down. On the third line there must be an Across clue to correspond to No. 23 with similar balance on the left.

Notice that clue 1 is Across and there is no 1 Down, so you can black in the square under that containing No. 1, and the three others to correspond. The rest should be easy. No words of less than three letters are used.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

BUBBLY BOPPEP
ANIT EEEELG
WIRACIE SARDINE
URE LEO OZALLA
STAINED MARSALE
EASTED EITATAI
NARRATE SPORRAN
TARRE TINGGL
STAYED SASHES

NANCY Lessons in Submersion



When You Feel Tired and Restless

take
Elliotts Nerve Brain Tonic
and
On Sale at All Dispensaries

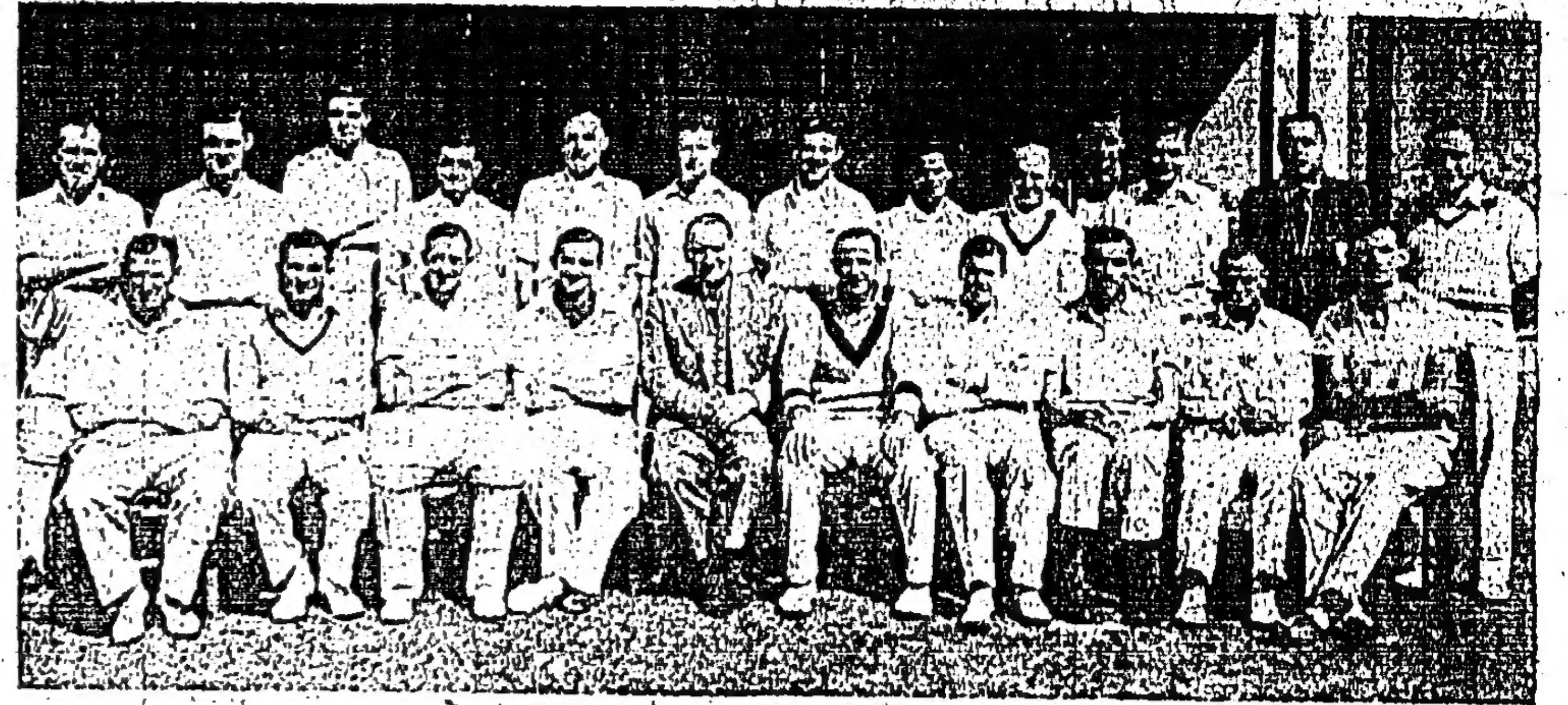
TELEGRAPH NEWSREEL



MR C. L. CHANG, of the Bank of China, and Miss P. Kwok, photographed after their wedding last week. (Photo: Ming Yuen).



REGISTRY WEDDING—Mrs Judith Halley, who arrived recently from Melbourne, was married last week to Ordnance Lt-Cdr James William Cable, MBE. The ceremony took place at the Registry. (Photo: Francis Wu).



SUNDAY CRICKET—Hongkong Cricket Club entertained a team representing the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at a friendly game last Sunday. The game was drawn. Players who took part are pictured above. (Photo: Golden Studio).



SUCCESSFUL FETE—The fete held last Saturday, at Murray Parade Ground in aid of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association, was a great success. Second from right in the picture above is Lady Young, who opened the fete. Seated next to her is Dr F. I. Tseung, chairman of the Association's committee, while Mr. B. A. Bernacchi, the secretary, is at the microphone. (Photo: Ming Yuen).



AT ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH last Sunday, the christening took place of Pancratius, infant son of Dr and Mrs Law Nai-kui. (Photo: Ming Yuen).



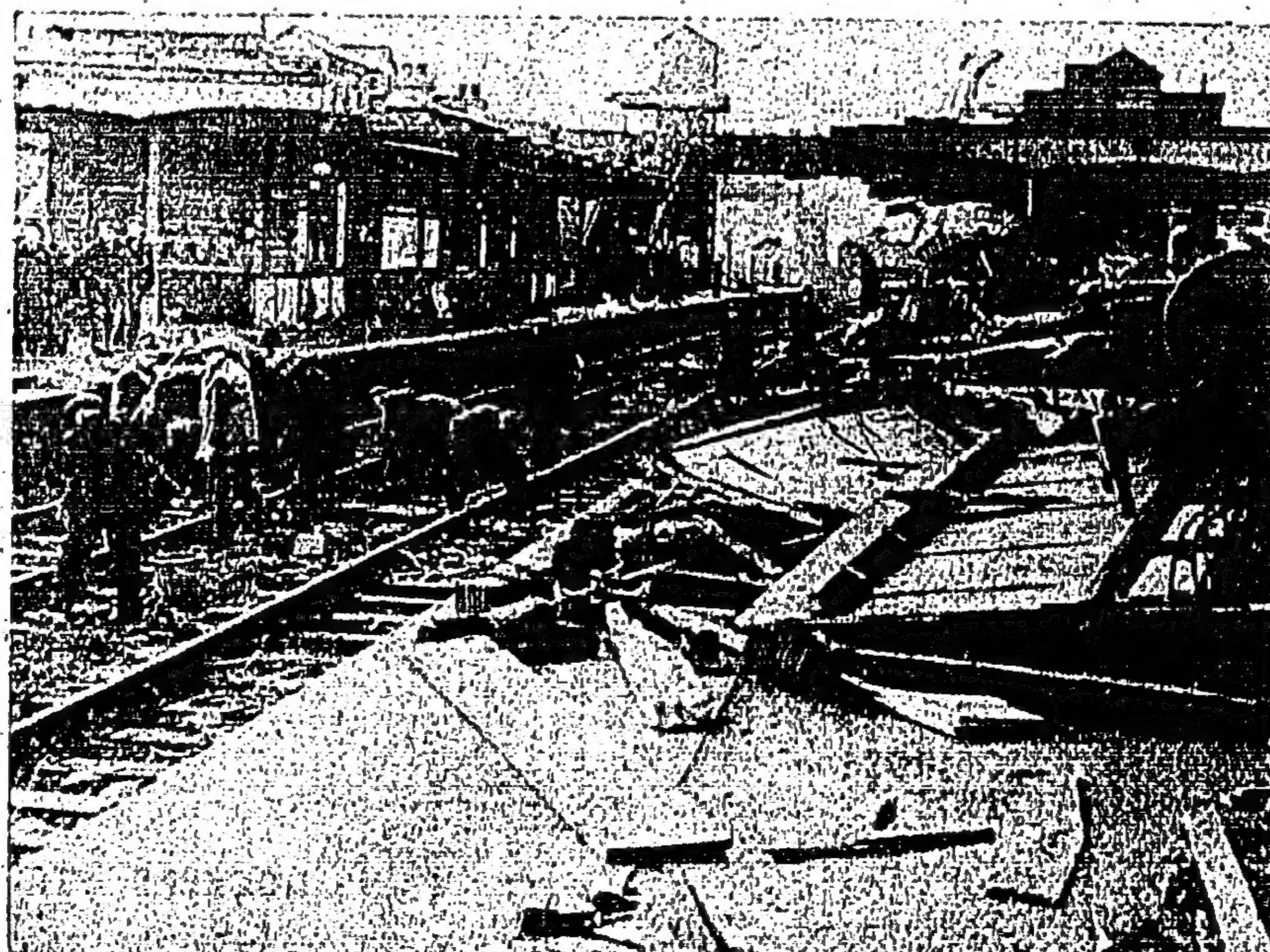
TEAM representing the Royal Air Force, which beat Kowloon Cricket Club in a friendly cricket match last Saturday. (Photo: Ming Yuen).



KOWLOON WEDDING—Mr. Marcellus F. Houghton, chief engineer of the ss Kwangai, and Miss Irene Ho, who were married at St Teresa's Church last Saturday. (Photo: Ming Yuen).



THE TUSITALA CLUB, which is made up of members of the YWCA, gave a dance last Saturday at St Joseph's College. The Club plans further dances and other functions in the near future. (Photo: Ming Yuen).



FIVE PERSONS WERE KILLED and 47 injured when a Peterborough-bound train crashed into another bound for Southend at Gidea Park station, Essex, recently. The accident occurred at night in thick fog. Photo, taken the next morning, shows men clearing the wreckage.

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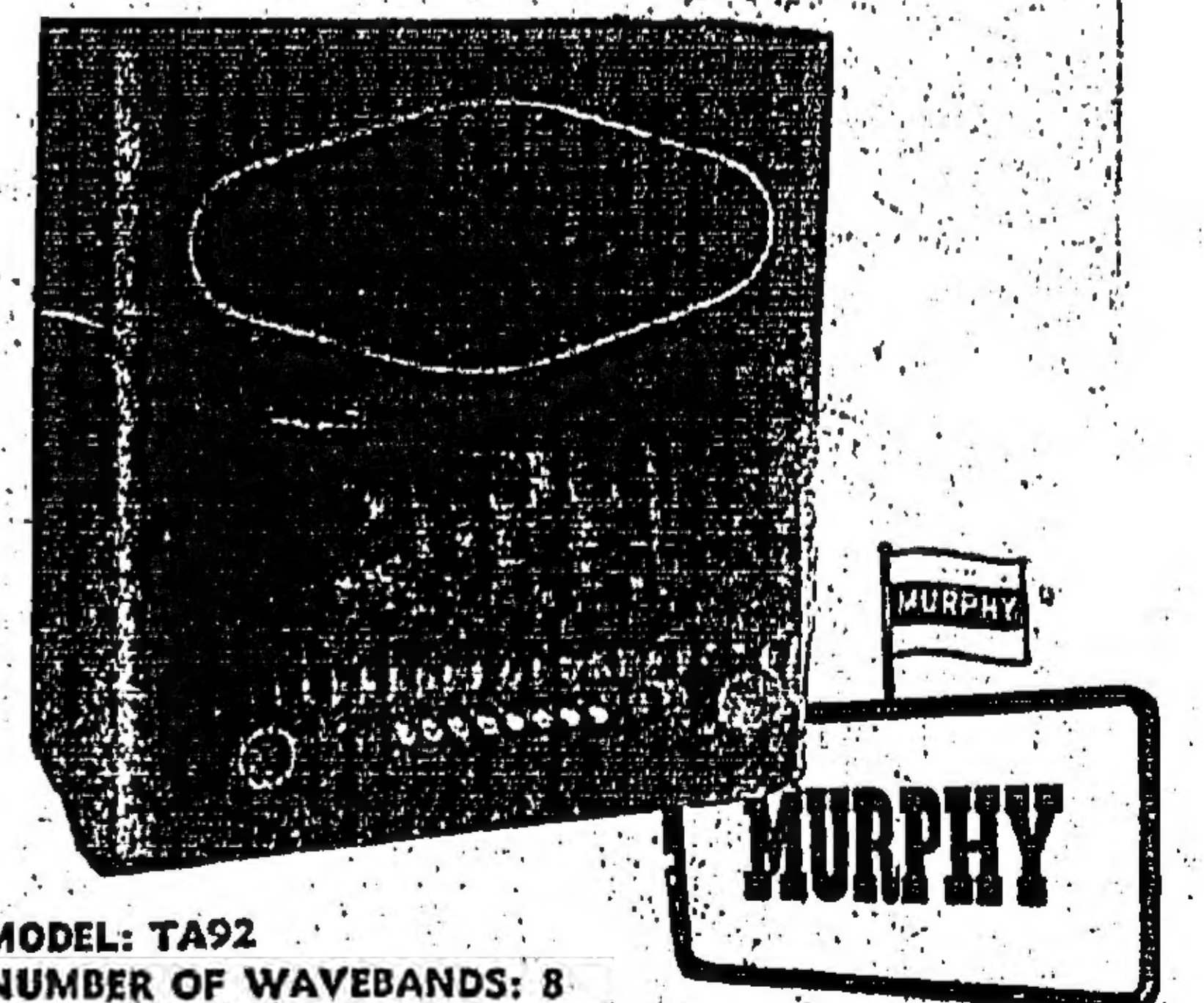
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